



'Nadir mulling north Cyprus presidency'

LONDON (R) — Fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir has been secretly canvassed about becoming the next president of northern Cyprus, a British newspaper said Sunday. The Mail on Sunday, in what it called a "world exclusive" report from northern Cyprus, quoted Mr. Nadir as saying the United States and "others" were pressing him to consider the post. Hours later, Mr. Nadir issued a statement to Turkey's Anatolia news agency denying the newspaper report. "I have earlier said I was not interested in politics. Also (president) Rauf Denktaş has two more years. I did not say anything on this issue... what the paper reported is false," the agency quoted Mr. Nadir as saying. Mr. Nadir, the bankrupt head of the fruits-to-electronics firm Polly, Peck, jumped bail in Britain and fled to his native northern Cyprus in May while awaiting trial here on theft and false accounting charges.

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Earthquake kills two in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — A woman and her child died in an earthquake which struck the Sudanese capital Khartoum Sunday, the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported. The woman and her three-year-old child died when the balcony of a house collapsed in the Al Mamoura residential district 10 kilometres south of the centre of Khartoum, SUNA said, quoting an official source. Seven people were injured in the quake, it added. The magnitude of the quake was not known. The Egyptian news agency MENA said the quake struck at dawn and was followed by a tremor at 0715 a.m. local time. Sudanese Interior Minister Air Force Brigadier Abdul Rahim Mohammad Hussein said there was no cause for panic, MENA reported.

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OPEC hopes U.N. will postpone lifting Iraq oil embargo

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has expressed hope that the United Nations postpones lifting the Iraq oil embargo to avoid oversupply, the Antara news agency said Sunday. Antara quoted OPEC Secretary General Subroto as saying that the move to postpone lifting the oil embargo was important to balance the oil supply and consumption, as well as maintaining the price of oil. He said that a U.N. decision to lift the oil embargo on Iraq during the fourth quarter of 1993 would not be a problem with the cartel.

China starts work on Pakistani plant

ISLAMABAD (R) — Chinese engineers and labourers began work Sunday on building a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant in Pakistan's central Punjab province. "China and Pakistan are developing nuclear energy for a common goal, which is to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace and prosperity," Jiang Xinxiong, president of the China National Nuclear Corporation, said. The Chashma nuclear power plant, on the Jhelum River 280 kilometres south of Islamabad, is due to be connected to the national grid in November 1998 and handed over to Pakistan after testing in March 1999, officials said.

Opposition to enter parliament — Ben Ali

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali said Sunday he expected opposition parties to enter parliament after legislative elections next March. "It is only by our own will that we have chosen... to make pluralism a fact of life in the chamber of deputies," he told the closing session of the congress of the ruling Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique (RCD). The RCD holds all the 141 seats in parliament. Habib Boularef, spokesman for the congress, said the government was studying an electoral law reform to ensure opposition parties are represented in parliament. There are five legal opposition parties in the country.

Liberian ceasefire is holding

MONROVIA (AP) Rebel Taylor Sunday urged his fighters to honour a ceasefire approved by Liberia's three warring factions, saying the country's 3½-year-old civil war was over. The ceasefire went into effect at midnight Saturday and there were no reports of violations, said a spokesman for the West African force responsible for policing it. "I think everybody is fed up with the fighting," said John Adda, deputy field commander of the five-nation force.

Five armed activists killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Five armed Muslim fundamentalists have been killed by police, officials said Sunday. Djamel Lazere was killed Saturday in Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, and four men, who were not identified, were killed Wednesday in Boudouaou, 35 kilometres east of Algiers.

Bonn holds NATO aide for 'spying'

BONN (R) — A top German NATO official and his British wife have been arrested on suspicion of passing many of NATO's most closely guarded military secrets to East Germany for over 10 years, authorities said Sunday. The couple, who live in Brussels, were detained while visiting Germany after a year-long hunt by security experts for a cold war espionage "mole" codenamed "Topaz" and his helpers. Clues came after files held by his masters, East Germany's ministry for state security (STASI), passed into Western hands after German unification. The federal prosecutor's office identified the arrested couple as 47-year-old Rainer R. and his British wife Christine. Ann R. Rainer R. was charged with "urgent suspicion of especially grave treason," and his wife with "especially grave activity as a secret agent."

Lebanese flood back to devastated south

Israeli ceasefire holds; Assad, Hariri and Hizbollah say resistance will continue

Combined agency dispatches

TENS OF THOUSANDS of civilians bombarded out of their South Lebanon villages by Israeli streams home Sunday as Israeli troops and tanks poured out of Lebanon.

Shocked at the devastation of Israel's fiercest ever mauling of the south, many returnees and even wounded said a seven-day Israeli assault only increased popular support for guerrillas. (See page 10)

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) put away its guns and worked to win hearts and minds with a clean-up and speeches stressing Israel was to blame and promising some compensation.

"Israel defeated us with this destruction but we have won by staying with our faith and the resistance," Hizbollah cleric Najji Taleb said in Jisheet, a blasted bastion of the group.

"Our hearts bleed for the people but all can be rebuilt. The key is the resistance stays," he said while bearded men without guns but still wearing flak jackets cleared rubble from streets.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said the Israeli attacks "destroyed all we had achieved these last months in the way of reconstruction," estimating that 10,000 houses were destroyed and 30,000 other homes damaged.

The Israelis "tried to do as much harm as possible to the whole of our country," which is in the midst of a post-war reconstruction programme, said Health Minister Marwan Hamadeh.

He said the onslaught badly damaged 120 villages and rocked Lebanon "just when we were seeing a return in foreign investment confidence."

Many families could not find even the rubble of their homes in towns and villages pulverised by the week-long Israeli air, sea and artillery blitz.



A woman from Sidikein, a village near Tyre, screams and shouts after returning from Beirut Sunday as she discovers her home destroyed during the Israeli seven-day war in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Police said 140 people were killed and 496 wounded in the Israeli onslaught.

"I came to look for my house, but I can't find any trace of it," moaned Qassem Abu Khalil, 42, a teacher in Qleieh, near the Port city of Tyre.

In Mayfadoun, near the inland market town of Nabatieh, Jaafar Yatim stopped his pickup truck and climbed out with his wife, Zahra, and their three small daughters. Their cow and four goats stayed in the truck.

The family hardly walked five metres before they all burst into tears. Mr. Yatim, 35, pointed to a heap of debris and said: "This was my house, and this was the barn."

The mass return of refugees was not slowed by a pre-dawn guerrilla attack on Israeli-affiliated militiamen in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Unidentified guerrillas fired two mortars and about 60 rifle rounds at an outpost of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), whose

militiamen are armed and trained by Israel, security sources said. The SLA responded with 19 rounds of mortar fire, the sources added.

The Revolutionary Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine, a hitherto unknown movement, announced in a statement that one of its guerrilla groups had "mounted an attack on Israeli enemy soldiers on the Qunin-Baraachit road, killing and wounding members of the Israeli unit."

No casualties were reported in the 3 a.m. (000GMT) skirmish at Baraachit, nine kilometres north of the Israeli border, and it did not appear to threaten the ceasefire.

Israel had mounted its offensive after seven Israeli soldiers in the "security zone" were killed in July ambushes claimed by two groups — Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), an eighth Israeli soldier was killed during last week's offensive.

Late Sunday, Israel pulled out most of the armoured reinforcements it massed in the "security zone" last week.

Witnesses said about 150 tanks and armoured personnel carriers returned to northern Israel, but about 45 Howitzer cannons were left behind.

Along the coast, six lanes of southbound traffic clogged the highway from Beirut to Tyre, 80 kilometres away, as the refugees returned home.

Cars with blown-out windows, shields scars carried twice their capacity of passengers. Children were bundled in the trunks, and mattresses and cooking pots were tied to the roofs.

The destruction back home was staggering. Many stared in speechless daze at devastated shops and houses. Others sobbed in the ruins and cursed Israel for the attack, the guerrillas for provoking it and the Lebanese government for failing to protect them.

(Continued on page 3)

King and Queen begin two-day visit to Turkey

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Istanbul Sunday on a two-day official visit to Turkey.

The King and the Queen were received at the airport by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel, Mrs. Demirel, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and senior officials.

In an address at the airport, President Demirel welcomed Their Majesties and lauded the King's role in enhancing Jordanian-Turkish relations.

Stressing the importance of the visit, the Turkish president expressed his country's keenness to develop relations between the two countries.

In reply to Mr. Demirel's address, King Hussein commended Jordanian-Turkish relations and lauded the Turkish leader, wishing him success in shouldering his responsibilities.

King Hussein said he will hold talks with Turkish officials on regional and international issues.

King Hussein is accompanied on the visit by a delegation comprising Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki,



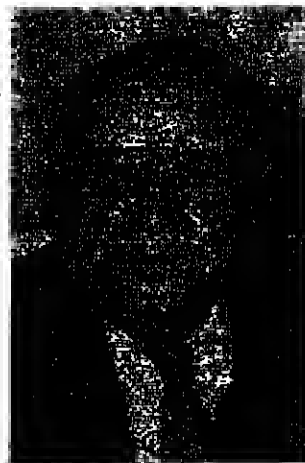
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Royal Protocol Chief Mohammad Al Adwan.

Later Sunday, the King and Queen paid a courtesy visit to the Turkish president in his residence.

They also received in their residence in Istanbul the Turkish premier who was accompanied by Mr. Cetin.

Mr. Cetin paid a three-day visit to Jordan last week.

The King and Queen flew to Turkey from France. In Paris the King held talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Premier Edouard Bal-



Suleiman Demirel

ladur and other French leaders.

The Monarch has been in Britain since July 9, where he was convalescing after suffering from an irregular heart-beat.

Turkey is a participant in the multilateral talks of the Arab-Israeli peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991. The multilateral phase covers regional issues such as water, arms control and security issues, refugees, the environment and economic cooperation.

King Fahd thanks King Hussein for condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia thanking him for a cable of condolences he sent over the death of Saudi Prince Saad Ben Abdul Aziz.

"I have received Your Majesty's cable of condolences and consolation over the death of His Royal Highness Prince Saad Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud. As I send my thanks and appreciation to Your Majesty for your kind brotherly condolences, I implore almighty God to be merciful on the deceased and to protect Your Majesty and all members of your family and brotherly people from any harm," King Fahd said in the cable.

The Saudi monarch sent a similar cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, thanking him for the condolences cable he sent.

Regent visits facilities in south, calls for improvements in area

AQABA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday continued a tour of the south accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

The Regent visited several facilities within Aqaba and outside the port city and was briefed on industrial and touristic projects as well as services at border posts in the south.

The Crown Prince, who was also accompanied by several ministers and his private advisor Mohammad Saqqaf and Royal Scientific Society President Hani Mulki, expressed interest in a number of projects and issued directives to the concerned authorities on issues of concern to the citizens.

The Regent called on the concerned authorities to initiate work on whatever is needed to improve the living conditions of the residents of the areas and preserve higher national interests by maintaining the infrastructure of health, industrial and touristic facilities.

During a visit to the fertiliser plant at Aqaba, the Regent underlined the need to solve the problem of air pollution caused from dust and chemicals emitted from the facility. He urged officials to properly handle and dispose of industrial waste.

The Crown Prince visited the Ports Corporation where he was briefed on its activities and expressed satisfaction.

The Regent also inspected the passenger terminal at Aqaba Port and instructed the concerned officials to improve the transport of passengers from the terminals to ships. He also called for particular attention to be given to health and service facilities at the port so as to extend maximum possible comfort to passengers and set an example of high standard of services.

The Crown Prince visited the residence of the late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali and expressed satisfaction with a museum the building houses. He asked the con-

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Belgium mourns King Baudouin's death

Combined agency dispatches

BRUSSELS — King Baudouin of Belgium, Europe's longest-reigning monarch, died of a heart attack while on holiday in Spain Sunday night, the prime minister's office announced on Sunday.

"The nation is in mourning," said Belgian radio in opening remarks broadcasting news of the death of the 62-year-old monarch.

As flags around the country were lowered to half mast, radio stations played sombre music and tributes to the dead king, while several of the country's newspapers planned to print special editions in his honour on Sunday.

King Baudouin, known as "le roi triste" (the sad king) by his subjects, occupied the throne for 42 years. His reign began in July 1951 after his father Leopold III abdicated amid continuing bitterness over his decision to surrender to the Germans after Nazi tanks rolled into Belgium in May 1940.

The bespectacled, sad-looking king, who played an often thankless role as a figurehead linking Belgium's fractious Dutch and French-speaking communities, was usually a low-key figure who maintained his privacy unlike some of Europe's more highly publicised royal households.

"He was like a father to us. He kept us together," said one woman among the crowd of people filing past the palace in central Brussels to deliver flowers and their respects.

One of the many floral tributes held the message: "Adieu beloved sovereign."

Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene flew to Granada, in southern Spain, Sunday morning to accompany King Baudouin's widow, Queen Fabiola, on the Belgian air force flight which



Archives photo dated Nov. 27, 90 shows King Baudouin I and Queen Fabiola visiting the Dey's Palace in Algiers (AFP photo)

brought the king's body back to Brussels later in the day.

According to Spanish Radio SER, the queen found King Baudouin collapsed on his desk and although a Spanish heart specialist was summoned, the king died at 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT).

King Baudouin had been in poor health since heart surgery in March 1992. He also had a prostate operation in August 1991 after a cancerous growth was discovered.

Although he had no real power, King Baudouin was often called upon to exert a moderating influence in the country's frequent political crises.

Some observers expressed con-

cern about the effect of the king's death on Belgium's cohesion.

King Baudouin was born on Sept. 7, 1930 near Brussels, the second child of King Leopold III who abdicated in 1950 amid widespread hostility over his role during World War II.

His childhood was marked by tragedy — the violent death of his grandfather King Albert I in 1934 and his mother Queen Astrid's death after a car accident in 1935.

In April 1990, he sparked a constitutional crisis when he refused because of his Catholic principles to sign a law legalising abortion. Belgium remained without a king for 44 hours, until

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Prince Albert named successor

PRINCE ALBERT will succeed to the throne after his brother, King Baudouin, died of a heart attack in Spain on Saturday, a government statement said Sunday.

Prince Albert of Liege is 59. Royal experts had tipped his eldest son Philippe, 33, as the most likely royal heir to the king, who had no children of his own.

"We must put ourselves behind his constitutional successor, Prince Albert, who is being called to continue his work in the spirit of continuity," the statement said.

Christopher due in Cairo today seeking to end peace logjam

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to arrive in Egypt Monday at the start of a tour to revive Middle East peace talks thrown into uncertainty by a seven-day Israeli war in Lebanon.

Mr. Christopher is scheduled to meet in the port of Alexandria with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who said Saturday's ceasefire in Lebanon augured well for a resumption in the talks.

The truce "opens the way for a return to calm in the region and the continuation of the peace process," said Mr. Musa, only slightly less optimistic than Israeli officials.

Mr. Christopher left Washington Sunday.

He cut short a trip to Asia to move up his Middle East trip after Israel unleashed an attack — on Lebanon — killing 140 people, wounding hundreds and sparking an exodus of around 500,000.

After a week of intense attacks, Mr. Christopher brokered a cease-fire agreement Saturday between the warring sides, according to diplomatic sources in the region.

The last round of Middle East talks in Washington that began 21 months ago ended in June without any major breakthrough.

In occupied Jerusalem, Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said Israel's use of military power to "impose its views can only create obstacles to the process."

"With the deadlock we have reached, it's very difficult to achieve anything," Dr. Ashrawi told AFP.

Mr. Christopher is expected to carry a new draft of a U.S. document of principles for pushing ahead with Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The Palestinians rejected an earlier draft because it suggested the status of Jerusalem be left for several years until a final settlement is negotiated, as Israel wishes.

"We don't want to discuss the U.S. document at all. We want to discuss the deadlock in the peace process," Dr. Ashrawi said, underlining that East Jerusalem was occupied territory and had to be part of any area over which the Palestinians are given interim autonomy.

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad doubted Israel

was ready to make peace. "He who wants peace does not fire rockets and bombs at civilians, and doesn't send in the air force to destroy their houses."

He renewed Syria's commitment to the peace process, saying "Syria is fighting a battle for peace."

"But all those concerned should know that our support for peace does not mean accepting the peace Israel wants to impose on the Arab parties," Mr. Assad said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said that "what happened in South Lebanon will have negative consequences on the (peace) process."

But Israeli officials praised the role of Syria, the power broker in Lebanon, in securing an end to guerrilla rocket attacks on Israel.

"This is the chance to open a new chapter in relations with Syria," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said. "Syria has decided to make peace with Israel and wants to improve relations with the United States and remain the leader of the Arab world."

An Israeli cabinet minister who asked not to be named said the

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Afghan farmers battered in attacks on northern border with Tajikistan

By Suzy Price
Reuters

DASHT-E-QALA, Afghanistan — A battered yellow jeep jolting slowly along a dusty road in northern Afghanistan presented a rare moving target for Russian gunners positioned over the border in Tajikistan's Pamir Mountains.

Most farmers along the Afghan border with Tajikistan have fled their homes within range of Russian artillery and Afghan troops move at night or along riverbeds to keep out of the sights of Russian gunners.

A rash of cross-border clashes is transforming this remote and rugged frontier region of subsistence farmers into a desert, officials say.

With a whistle and a thud a tank shell fired from the mountains slammed into the road 20 metres from the jeep. As the driver sped into the nearest village of Dasht-e-Qala another shell landed behind it, kicking up dust in a field.

The doctor in Dasht-e-Qala's rudimentary clinic, about 10 km (six miles) from the Amn Darya River that marks the border, said Russian troops were opening fire on anything that passed along the road as well as on the village.

"For the past two weeks we've come under attack," said Dr. Amin Badri. They fire rockets, mortars and heavy machineguns.

The clashes erupted on July 13 when Tajik rebels, apparently backed by Afghan guerrillas, attacked from Afghanistan, killing 25 Russian border guards and at least 100 Tajiks at a Russian border post.

An Afghan spokesman said in Kabul on Saturday that Russia had agreed in talks that its forces in Tajikistan would stop cross-border artillery attacks on northern Afghanistan.

The agreement came as Kabul Radio reported 20 people were killed and 50 wounded by a Russian bombing raid on the Shahr-e-Buzurg area of northern Badkshan province on Saturday.

The radio had reported earlier that Russian jets bombed villages in the same area on Wednesday, although the Russian air force denied carrying out any raids.

The Islamic rebels from Tajikistan are believed to have joined tens of thousands of refugees in seeking a safe haven in Afghanistan after the defeat of their uprising last year.

The Tajik government accuses Afghan forces of entering its territory to fight the rebels and is shelling the northern Afghan province of Takhar in retaliation.

It is civilians who are being hit, officials say. Dr. Badri said at least five or six people were injured each day in Dasht-e-Qala, a sprawling village of mud brick houses inhabited by farmers.

Even the clinic has come under attack with its roof and one wall scarred by rocket hits. It is equipped with a single bed and a few mattresses.

"Unless a patient is seriously ill we have to send them home," Dr. Badri said. "We have hardly any equipment or

drugs. What we do have in our pharmacy the patients must buy with their own money."

"Basically we are carrying out first aid."

Abdullah, 44, lay motionless in the only bed, a bandage wrapped around his head and an intravenous drip attached to his arm. He was working in his field at night preparing to harvest his wheat when a Russian rocket slammed down. He was hit by shrapnel.

"We thought it would be safer to work at night so the Russians can't see us," he said. "I don't know why they're attacking us — we have nothing to do with their war in Tajikistan."

A nearby house had been hit by two rockets that tore a hole in one wall and smashed the doorway. Four-year-old Shabana was injured. Her father, a local guerrilla commander, said it was just luck that no one was more seriously hurt.

The bazaar was quiet. Most shopkeepers had closed their wooden shutters for fear of attacks from the Tajik Mountains that rise across the border behind the buildings.

"They are destroying our houses and crops and killing our families and animals," said elderly farmer Mohammad Nabi. "Everyone here is suffering."

Commanders of the 55th division under the Jamiat-e-Islami party, the dominant guerrilla group in the region, say they have received no orders from the coalition Islamic government in Kabul to retaliate and were lying low to avoid Russian artillery.

Moscow says the 55th division is behind the rebel attacks.

Commander Momur Hassan, head of the forces in Dasht-e-Qala, said at least 15 people had been killed and 3,000 had fled the village.

Kabul says more than 400 Afghan villagers have been killed or injured in Takhar in the Russian attacks.

Mr. Hassan vehemently denied helping the Tajik rebels or entering Tajikistan to fight. "All this is for no reason," he said. "There are no Tajiks here and we are not helping them."

Mr. Hassan, who like most former Mujahideen has long experience of fighting former Soviet troops during their 10-year occupation of Afghanistan, said his men had so far refrained from firing back at their old enemy.

"We can manage a guerrilla war if we have to but so far we are not firing on them," he said. "We are taking our orders from the Defence Ministry."

Other military sources said an attack from the Afghan side could not be ruled out and the Afghans had plenty of weapons left over from their lengthy civil war.

Moscow sees the frontier as a crucial line of defence against the threat of Islamic fundamentalism, and its guards are stationed there by agreement with the Tajik government.

"If the Russians carry on like this then the old hatred is bound to show itself again," said one Western observer. "This could easily escalate into a full-scale war."



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat meets with Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri Sunday after the former's arrival from Hanoi (AFP photo)

PLO to open mission in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's foreign minister met Sunday with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, and announced afterwards that the PLO would soon open an office in Bangkok, reports said.

Mr. Arafat discussed the planned office with Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri at Bangkok's airport during an hour-long refuelling stop en route to the Middle East, Thai Television Channel 7 reported.

Mr. Prasong said the cabinet approved in

1991 a longstanding PLO request for representation in Bangkok. But the government has not decided whether it will be a representative office or a full embassy, he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Arafat was returning home from a visit to Vietnam, Malaysia, China and North Korea. In Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, the Palestinian leader met with President Le Duc Anh and Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi. Israeli attacks in South Lebanon prompted the Palestinian leader to cut his Hanoi visit short, Vietnamese officials said.

Iraq justifies its invasion of Kuwait

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) Sunday reiterated Baghdad's claims on Kuwait, on the eve of the third anniversary of the Iraqi invasion.

The invasion, which took place Aug. 2, 1990, was "necessary to put a stop to a huge American and Zionist plot against Iraq and the Arab Nation," INA said.

The agency reaffirmed Iraq's "past and present claims" on Kuwait, which Iraqi forces occupied from August 1990 until they were forced out by a U.S.-led multinational force in February 1991.

Although Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said in January that the "Kuwait chapter is closed," the daily, Babel, newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, still frequently refers to Kuwait as "the 19th province" of Iraq.

Baghdad refuses to recognise the new boundary between the two countries, drawn up after the 1991 Gulf war by the United

Nations, which was shifted 600 metres into Iraqi territory.

Kuwait, marking Monday's third anniversary of the Iraqi invasion, expressed continued anger at Arab states which it said gave "disgraceful" support to the seven-month occupation.

A cabinet statement issued on Sunday said: "Kuwait does not forget the stances of those countries which supported the Iraqi regime and which insist on continuing their support to that regime."

The statement added: "Feelings of anger and dissatisfaction are still present in Kuwaiti hearts because of disgraceful stances taken by some of the Arab regimes which worked in international forums from the first hours (of the occupation) to affect the decisions of international legitimacy in a manner that would satisfy the aggressor."

It did not name the countries. Kuwait's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mauritania, Jordan, Yemen

and Sudan have been chilly ever since the crisis because of their perceived sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The statement, in apparent reference to President Saddam, denounced "the hate-filled aggressor who practised robbery, robbery, burning and destroying."

The cabinet expressed thanks to all "brave" countries which had "defied injustice" by taking part in the anti-Iraq coalition.

Kuwait honoured Kuwaitis killed during the occupation and thanked "the people of Kuwait who stayed on in Kuwait, setting an example to be followed in resisting occupation."

The cabinet said it prayed for the speedy release of what it called Kuwaitis held hostage in Iraq.

Kuwait says 600 Kuwaitis taken captive during the occupation remain held in Iraq. Iraq denies it holds any Kuwaitis.

The cabinet said their return home "will keep being our first national issue."

Mediator says Kurds to free hostages this week

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Six tourists abducted in Turkey last month by Kurdish rebels will be freed this week, a Turkish mediator said Sunday.

Isamat Inset, editor of the English-language Turkish Daily News, said officials of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) based in Syrian-controlled sections of Lebanon, had given assurances that the hostages would be freed this week.

He did not give a precise date. The PKK, which has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1984 for self-rule in southeastern Turkey, kidnapped the foreigners apparently to bring international pressure on Turkey to halt a crackdown on guerrillas.

More than 6,500 rebels, soldiers and civilians have been killed in the fighting between Kurdish separatists and Turkish forces.

Mr. Inset said he was negotiating for the release of the hostages on behalf of their families.

The PKK kidnapped Australian Tania Miller and her British cousin David Rowbottom more than three weeks ago. French tourists Pierre Six, Michelle Courday, Robert Audois and

Ferrand Harron were abducted July 25.

The PKK's military committee chairman and deputy leader Cemil Bayik warned that Turkish army operations against the PKK in the Kurdish-majority southeastern region could endanger the tourists' lives.

He called on the government to scale down the operations but stressed this was not a condition for the hostages' release.

The PKK's number two also warned future tourists to the region to liaise with Kurdish representatives in their country before setting out to avoid "complications."

Mr. Bayik said that all six were in good health and that extreme care was being taken to ensure their security.

Attacks kill 20

Twenty people including 17 soldiers were killed in three attacks by Kurdish rebels in southern Turkey, informed sources said Sunday.

Ten soldiers including a non-commissioned officer were gunned down when rebels armed

with automatic weapons and a missile launcher attacked a Turkish military police outpost in the Cukurca region on the border with Iraq overnight Saturday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The attack by PKK militants sparked a hunt for the assailants by Turkish security forces which lasted until midday Sunday, the agency said.

No details of any rebel casualties were given. Seven soldiers also died and 16 were wounded in a PKK raid late Saturday on a military police outpost at Gumusorgu near Sason in the southeastern province of Batman, informed local sources said.

A third rebel attack late Saturday on a minibus near Alacakaya in the eastern Elazig province left three people dead, including two civilian security officials, and eight wounded, Anatolia reported.

The attacks came after Turkish armed forces stepped up their operations against the PKK in the run-up to the ninth anniversary of the start of the rebels' armed insurgency against Ankara on Aug. 15.

Kuwaitis in lingering trauma and violent crime wave

By Amani Al Sawi
Agence France Presse

KUWAIT CITY — Three years after the Iraqi invasion, Kuwaitis are still obsessed by the fear of Saddam Hussein's armies and to add to their apprehension, the emirate has seen a high rise in violent crime since the Gulf war.

Psychologists say trauma and revulsion at the invasion and atrocities is contributing to the violent crime wave — as is the plethora of weapons left behind by Iraqi soldiers.

Official statements by Kuwaiti officials emphasise that Iraq still represents a threat, not only to Kuwait but to the whole region. Baghdad has often said it still considers the emirate "Iraq's 19th province."

Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said during a recent visit to Bahrain: "Those who thought that the Iraqi aggression is over are wrong, because Baghdad's regime does not miss any opportunity to reiterate its aggressive intentions against Kuwait."

Iraq has frequently mounted incursions across the Kuwaiti border since the emirate's liberation.

Kuwait, in retaliation, has started to construct trenches along the borderline and installing electronic monitoring devices.

Meanwhile, the incidence of rape, robbery and other violent crime has soared compared to pre-invasion times, according to government sources.

Ministry of Interior spokesman Colonel Abdullah Al Faris told Kuwaiti newspapers recently that "large quantities of weapons and ammunition were uncovered during searches for weapons."

The operations will continue until "all weapons are uncovered," he added.

The Kuwaiti National Assembly even criticised Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Fozan earlier this month, accusing him of not being firm enough on crime.

Jassem Hajjiah, a psychologist dealing with children orphaned by the war, told AFP the situation "might get worse in the near future."

"The shock of the invasion has caused instability in the way youths are thinking. What makes it worse is the huge number of weapons left by the Iraqis," he explained.

Saad Al Agemy, a member of a Kuwaiti-based human rights organisation, said the invasion "caused a collapse in moral ethics among youngsters."

"The invasion wiped out the idea of institutional security. People refuse to hand in their weapons because they represent a source of security," he added.

Brak Al Aredah, a 30-year-old Kuwaiti, said Kuwaitis were more concerned with internal problems than external ones.

"Our main concern now is the increase of crimes inside Kuwait, we are no longer frightened by the Iraqi threat, especially after the start of work on the border trench," he said.

Lawyer Mohammad Al Jassem said that most of the young criminals came from socially neglected areas.

"There is no general (government) policy to help youngsters," Mr. Jassem said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kabul offers refuge to Sheikh Abdul Rahman

KABUL (R) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Saturday offered refuge to hind Egyptian Islamic fundamentalist cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who faces deportation from the United States. "We are willing to give him refuge. It will not cause a problem for Afghanistan," he said in an interview. "He can stay here," he said when asked if Afghanistan would offer asylum if the sheikh was expelled from the United States. "Several of us live here if he is in need of a place and he wants to." Several of the sheikh's alleged followers in the United States have been arrested in connection with the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre in which six people died and an alleged plot to bomb city landmarks and traffic tunnels in New York. Sheikh Abdul Rahman was allowed into the United States in 1990 after being acquitted in Egypt of charges of complicity in the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. A U.S. immigration panel on July 9 upheld a deportation order against the sheikh, who is being held at a New York prison. Immigration officials say he gave false information on his visa application, a charge he denies. The Afghan prime minister said his offer was not intended to offend Egypt, which backed the Afghan guerrillas in their 14-year war against the former Soviet-backed government.

10 acquitted in Pakistani murder trial

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A court acquitted Saturday 10 people accused of involvement in the 1988 slaying of prominent Pakistani Shiite leader Arif Hussain Al Hussaini, officials said. The district and sessions judge in the northwestern city of Peshawar ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges against the 10 suspects. Mr. Hussaini was shot dead on Aug. 5, 1988 at a religious school, which he ran in Peshawar. A former military governor of North West Frontier Province, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, was also accused in the case but he was murdered outside his home in Peshawar in 1991 by assailants who were never caught. Gen. Haq had been accused by the Shiite community of masterminding the murder of their leader. A Shiite body, the Inamia Students Organisation, said in a statement that it would appeal to a high court against the acquittals.

Fire in huge Cairo inner-city junkyards

CAIRO (AP) — Fire raged through three inner-city Cairo junkyards Saturday, sending a pall of dense black smoke from humming tyres and automobile parts soaring over the city of 14 million. Authorities said the only casualties were a few residents of the Shubra El-Khayma area who complained of mild smoke inhalation. The state-owned Middle East News Agency reported that security officials denied finding evidence that an arsonist started the fire in the overpopulated district overlooking the Nile river. Witnesses said a spark from a campfire where guards were cooking their lunch appeared to have ignited the badly stored tyres and spare parts. Fire spread to two nearby junkyards owned by entrepreneur Ahmad Awad, who put his loss at almost 10 million Egyptian pounds (\$3.5 million).

Hundreds of Sudanese graduate from military camps

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler Saturday promised the largest-ever class of graduates from civil-defence camps that their popular defence forces will "continue to intimidate the enemies of God." About 18,000 men and women passed two months of military training in camps outside Khartoum, doing their share General Omar Hassan Al Bashir's plan to "defend the homeland." Training will continue in the camps "to intimidate the enemies of God, the nation and the faith," Gen. Bashir said in his commencement address. The Popular Defence Forces (PDF) were introduced two years ago to enrol government employees of both sexes. There are plans to move training camps to areas nearer to residential areas in the capital.

Dead Sea scholars ask court to block lawsuit

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two professors planning to publish five volumes on the Dead Sea scrolls have asked a federal court to protect them from a lawsuit threatened by another scholar. Professors Ben Zion Wacholder of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, and Martin G. Abegg of Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana, said the dispute centres on a segment of the scrolls that offers clues to an ancient Jewish sect living in Jordan. The scrolls, which include poetry and legal texts as well as books of the Bible, are thought to be about 2,000 years old. They were found in caves near the Dead Sea over a 10-year period starting in 1947.

Algerian court condemns 7 to death

ALGIERS (R) — A special court in Algiers sentenced seven Muslim fundamentalists to death at the weekend, the government newspaper Al Moudjahid said Sunday. The sentences bring to about 165 the number condemned to die in 18 months of conflict of the accused were tried in their absence for crimes "linked to terrorism," Al Moudjahid said. Officials describe fundamentalist militants as "terrorists." One of the condemned was named as Ayta Sheh, spiritual leader of "an important armed group." Mohammed Mokdad, who was arrested last November, was sentenced to death. He pleaded not guilty to charges including conspiracy against state security, setting up an armed group and incitement to murder.

Ukrainian sailors strike on Boat in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — Four hundred and twenty sailors, mostly Ukrainians, who have not been paid in two months have been on strike for 15 days on board their factory ship here, port officials said Sunday. "There is no resolution to the problem in Antarktika. The factory ship of the Soviet-Ukraine, which had been operating for 12 months in Mauritanian waters, had not said. The sailors, who received their money from revenue generated by the ship, had struck but the Ukrainian company had no means of paying them, he said. The boat was costing the company \$10,000 each day it was berthed in Alexandria, where it arrived at the start of the strike July 18.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Magdolopolis
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:10 Thirty Something
22:00 News in English
22:30 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

04:18 Fajr
05:46 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:30 Maghrib
21:06 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
Dea in Sole Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623544

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yabia Abdul Rahim 736072
Dr. Ahmad Alkhatib 747684
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783532
Al Asena pharmacy 637053
Nadroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smouciat pharmacy 637660
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

BEIRUT:

Dr. Ali Al Shugairi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ahmad Al Tariq 900806
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

RESCUE

Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Sheraton 6641714
Shimadai Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849545
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Amman 66612737
Al-Ahli, Amman 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marja 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900660
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Yusuf Modern Hospital (09)999090
IBRD 674155
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)271100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 10815320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:15 Soma (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
13:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
13:45 Beirut (RJ)
14:30 New Delhi (RJ)
15:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Aqaba (RJ)
15:30 Madrid (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:45 Bangkok (RJ)
17:00 Bangkok (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
22:10 Beirut, Rome (RJ)
06:15 New Delhi (RJ)
06:45 Moscow (RJ)
01:55 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Aden (AL)
11:45 Khartoum (SU)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Istanbul (TK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Beirut, Rome (RJ)
12:30 New Delhi (RJ)
13:15 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:45 London (RJ)
13:55 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Moscow (RJ)
15:30 Dhahran (RJ)
16:00 Doha, Karachi (RJ)
16:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:45 Damascus (RJ)
17:00 Larnaca (RJ)
18:00 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
22:10 Beirut, Rome (RJ)
06:15 New Delhi (RJ)
06:45 Moscow (RJ)
01:55 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Aden (AL)
11:45 Khartoum (SU)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Istanbul (TK)

MARKET PRICES

Upward/downward price in Jds per kg.

Apples 380/200
Apricots 440/240
Bananas 60 / 60
Beans (Mukammal) 620 / 620
Beans (small) 320 / 350
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 2



Queen Mother celebrates birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Zain Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, today (Monday) celebrated her birthday, an occasion the Jordan News Agency, Petra, described as dear to the hearts of the Jordanian people. On this happy occasion, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to the Queen and proudly remember her untiring devotion to, and sacrifices offered for the Kingdom and its people.

The Queen Mother, who married the late King Talal in 1934, embodies the greatest sense of motherhood by selflessly devoting her entire life to her children: His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and her daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, said Petra.

Reflecting on the great contribution the Queen Mother has made to the women's movement in the country, Petra said the Queen Mother have led the way for creating the first women's union in Jordan in 1944.

The Queen Mother was also instrumental in creating the women's branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in 1948 and has dedicated much of her time and effort to the orphanage in Amman named after her.

She also contributes effectively to social and humanitarian services and gives particular attention to charitable organisations and voluntary institutions operating in Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women prepare for Peking conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday chaired a meeting at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) to prepare for the Fourth International Women's Conference which will be held in Peking in 1995. Participants in the meeting reviewed the duties of the preparatory committee and steps taken to draft a national report on Jordanian women and their achievements in seeking to galvanise their rights. The committee members were selected at an extensive meeting held at the Jordanian Women's Federation under the chairmanship of Princess Basma June 24. At the meeting, the Princess, who chairs a national committee on women's affairs, agreed to head Jordan's two official and public delegations to the conference. Sunday's meeting was attended by Nour Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Director In'am Al Mufri, President of the Jordanian Women's Federation Haifa Abu Ghazaleh and other representatives of the Federation.

Mental health centre under expansion

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday said the Mental Health Centre in Fuhais is being refurbished and expanded with the help of local charitable organisations. Dr. Malhas also said that as of the middle of last month, all 27 comprehensive health centres in Jordan have been instructed to work overtime to meet the needs of the local community, and ease the pressure on city hospitals.

JEA awards JD 608,000 in tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Electricity Authority (JEA) Sunday awarded a JD 475,000 tender to a local company to carry out expansion works at Zarqa, Ghor Al Safi and Sahba power stations. Work at the three stations is expected to finish within the first quarter of 1994, according to Director of the Civil Engineering Department at JEA Adel Mar'i. Mr. Mar'i said the authority has also awarded a tender to another local company to conduct expansion works at Al Bayader, Sahab and Queen Alia International Airport power stations at a total cost of JD 133,000.

Jerusalem Festival to open

AMMAN (Petra) — The Administrative Committee of the Jerusalem Festival Sunday held a press conference at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation to announce the start of the festival next Sunday. Committee member Faleh Al Bayyari said the two-week festival will feature several cultural and artistic events. He said the programme includes exhibitions of paintings and posters, fashion shows of Palestinian costumes and lectures. Mr. Bayyari said the festival will also include an exhibition of books on Jerusalem, a film week, poetry recitals, shows by folkloric troupes and concerts by Lebanese singer Julia Borros and Syrian singer Amal Arafah. Mr. Bayyari, who chairs the board of directors of the Sports Club at Al Wihdat refugee camp, said the festival is organised by the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in cooperation with the cultural committee at the club.

Environmental workshop starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long workshop on combatting environmental pollution started Sunday at the Crown Hotel in Amman. The workshop is organised for youth leaders by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Representatives of the Ministry of Youth, political parties, public and private universities, the Atab Youth Forum (AYF) and the media will participate in the workshop which aims to enhance environmental awareness among the youth.

Breastfeeding awareness week begins

MADABA (Petra) — An educational week on breastfeeding Sunday started at the Madaba Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). The week, which is organised by the centre in cooperation with the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Society, comes in observance of International Day of Breastfeeding. It includes lectures on the effects of nursing on the health of infants and mothers.

PLO financial troubles leave university teachers without pay

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Teachers of seven Palestinian universities in the occupied Arab territories have not received their monthly salaries in the past four months because of the present financial difficulties facing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to the head of the Higher Education Department at the PLO office in Amman, Jihad Karashulli.

The teachers have not received their pay for April through July, and it is feared that the present situation would discourage them from staying on, said Mr. Karashulli.

He appealed to the Palestinian economic organisations and individuals to support the PLO's educational institutions

and help the struggle of the Palestinian nation.

"We appeal to the wealthy Palestinians to 'adopt' the universities which offer education to youth — the state of the future," Mr. Karashulli.

Referring to the Arab League's efforts to support these institutions, Mr. Karashulli cited an appeal last April by the Arab League Secretary General, Esmat Abdul Meguid, who said at least \$20 million were urgently needed.

But Mr. Karashulli said nothing has been forthcoming so far.

He expressed fear that the shortage of funds might force the teachers to abandon their job and look abroad for work, and therefore facilitate the Israeli hold on the Palestinian land and people.

Underlining the importance of the Palestinian universities in continuing the people's struggle, Mr. Karashulli said the academic institutions have been providing essential service to the community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Last week, he said, 23 delegates representing the Palestinian universities met with PLO officials in Amman to discuss the situation and to find appropriate solutions to the financial crisis.

The meeting, he said, stresses that every effort must be made to ensure the payment of salaries before the start of the academic year in October, said Mr. Karashulli.

These delegates, he added, also reaffirmed the need for these institutions to become self-reliant.

Russian envoy ends 2-day visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry Sunday wound up a two-day visit to Jordan by reiterating his country's demand that Israel withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 425.

Mr. Posuvalyuk, who left Amman for Tunis, said Russia strongly supports efforts to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, adding that the implementation of Resolution 425 constitutes one of Moscow's

principled stands.

He said the Russian leadership is deeply concerned over the new waves of displaced civilians from southern Lebanon moving north.

Furthermore, the Russian leadership is keen on achieving progress in the Middle East peace process, in which, he said, Lebanon is considered an essential partner.

Russia appreciates the wise policies of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the country's struggle to ensure security and stability in

the Middle East region, he added.

Moscow is also eager to bolster political cooperation with Jordan, Mr. Posuvalyuk said.

He said his talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other government leaders dealt with issues of common concern.

The Russian envoy was speaking shortly before his departure for Tunis, where he plans to deliver a message from the Russian government to Palestine President Yasser Arafat.

Potash production to hit 2.2m tonnes

KARAK (J.T.) — Jordan's production of potash from the Dead Sea is expected to be boosted to 1.8 million tonnes annually by the middle of 1994 and 2.2 million by the beginning of 1995, following the installation of further facilities at the Arab Potash Company (APC) plant near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, according to APC Director General Nasser Al Saadoun.

In his lecture at the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) branch in Karak, he stated that production of potash at the plant had steadily increased since it began in 1983 at an annual rate of half a million

tonnes.

He said that the reduction in revenues, from JD 41 million in 1989 to JD 28 million in 1992, was therefore a reflection of the decline on world potash prices.

He noted that the Dead Sea's estimated reserve of 43 billion tonnes of potash, the highest in the world, will be sufficient to supply the Kingdom's export needs for more than 200 years.

Jordan is now the seventh major world potash producer and the first in the Arab World.

Mr. Saadoun explained that as the mineral is extracted directly from the sea in Jordan, whilst

other countries have to drill deep into the ground, it was substantially cheaper for APC to produce.

He added that the extraction process from the Dead Sea is safe and has no adverse effects on the environment.

In a statement to Agence France Press (AFP) last week, APC Deputy Director Suleiman Hawari said India and China are the main importers of APC products.

APC has been receiving orders for additional amounts of potash from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil.

U.S. embassy denies Washington trying to influence electoral changes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. embassy here Sunday categorically denied charges levelled by local political groups at Washington of pressuring Jordan into changing the Kingdom's Election Law.

"Election is an internal affair of Jordan and we have nothing to do with it," said a senior source at the mission.

The source was commenting on local reports carrying accusations voiced by the powerful Muslim Brotherhood and other groups that Washington was trying to influence the government into changing the Election Law.

In the latest such accusation, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hamman Sa'id said Saturday: "It is the Americans who are pushing for the one-person-one-vote system" in Jordan.

The argument behind the alleged U.S. quest to change the Election Law is an assertion that a "one-person-one-vote" system would dilute the parliamentary strength of the Brotherhood, a fierce critic of the U.S.

Jordanian government officials say changing or retaining the Election Law has nothing to do with the Kingdom's external relations and will be governed by strictly internal considerations.

"We do follow political developments in the country and try to keep contact with the various political parties," said the American source, who preferred anonymity.

Such contacts, U.S. diplomats explain, are routine and aim at gaining first-hand information on the platforms and principles as well as objectives of the political groups.

The former U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison, and the political officer at the embassy have met with most of the political parties registered since September 1992, including the Brotherhood.

The embassy source said current American contacts with groups in Jordan do not include Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, a hard-line Palestinian group based in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Washington called off formal contacts with Hamas after several rounds of meetings with its representatives in Amman in what was then described as an effort to understand "political Islam."

Some of the political parties in Jordan are openly hostile to the U.S. and sometimes keep

the embassy waiting for months before agreeing to a meeting, sources say.

The embassy source said the mission was conducting direct contacts with the political parties since protocol did not warrant such contacts to be channelled through the Foreign Ministry.

In general, Western diplomats who monitor the Jordanian political scene say that the Kingdom's Election Law could do with amendments, but they hasten to add that this is their personal opinion and does not reflect the thinking of their governments.

Mr. Harrison, who assumed office as ambassador in Amman in August 1990, left Jordan early last month.

The Clinton administration has not formally nominated a successor, but diplomatic circles say the most probable candidate is Edward Ghem, the current American ambassador in Kuwait.

Mr. Ghem served as charge d'affaires at the U.S. mission in Amman in the mid-1980s before securing promotion to the defence affairs wing of the State Department. He was appointed ambassador to Kuwait a few weeks before the Iraqi invasion of the emirate in August 1990.

As the human tide turned back south, Saudi Arabia announced it was sending 10 plane-loads of humanitarian assistance for the refugees.

The aid ordered by King Fahd included food, medicine, blankets and tents, the Saudi Press Agency reported but gave no figures for the cost.

The Arab League decided Saturday to give \$500 million of emergency funds to the government to help the refugees return home and to re-equip the Lebanese army.

Mr. Hariri said: "Israel was giving us two choices: Disarm Hizbollah or we destroy your country. We cannot disarm Hizbollah. They are resisting the occupation."

But there is a third option: They (Israelis) pull out and we will disarm Hizbollah. If they pull out we will, he said.

"What did they gain — zero. They used all of their modern technology, weapons we don't have. We are a poor country and they couldn't do it (beat Hizbollah). How are we expected to?"

Asked whether the ceasefire agreement included guerrillas ending their attacks on Israeli forces in the "security zone" in South Lebanon, Mr. Hariri said it did not and attack might happen.

"They (Israelis) got what they wanted... they wanted to show their muscles. We want peace. We went to the negotiating table. We are willing to continue (peace talks) and this will not change our position."

The prime minister said Israel had planned its bombardment of the south before the seven Israeli soldiers were killed.

He said Israel wanted to sabotage his drive to rebuild Lebanon after 15 years of civil war, which ended in 1990.

"They (Israelis) wanted to make trouble for Mr. Hariri's government. The Israelis said: 'You cannot rebuild your country unless we get what we want,' he said.

Among the hardest hit was Nabatiyeh, which faces the central sector of the Israeli-held enclave. The market town's elite Bayyad neighbourhood was levelled. Only stray cats moved among the charred cars and broken electric power poles.

Three villages on a ridge north of Nabatiyeh looked like they had been struck by a killer earthquake. These villages — Jbaa,

Christopher's Mideast mission will be difficult — Abu Nowar

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar Sunday said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would have a difficult mission because of the situation in Lebanon in his expected tour of the Middle East.

Dr. Abu Nowar said the Israeli aggression on Lebanon has caused the displacement of half a million Lebanese, and Mr. Christopher ought to seek the repatriation of these people and encourage the reconstruction of Arab homes destroyed by Israeli attacks on south Lebanon.

The minister added that the U.S. official should also ensure medical and food assistance be provided to the displaced Lebanese civilians by the world community and the United Nations.

"Everybody wishes Mr. Christopher success in his new mission in the region because it is de-



Ma'an Abu Nowar

signed to stimulate the peace process, but generally speaking, this mission looks difficult at the moment," said Dr. Abu Nowar.

Calling on Israel to stop resorting to threatening language and the use of military force, the minister said the latest onslaught on Lebanon nearly damaged the

Arab-Israeli peace process. "I strongly believe that Israel's latest attacks will constitute an obstacle to the peace process," he said.

Dr. Abu Nowar maintained that a week of raids and continuous shelling of civilian positions cannot be simply called an aggression, but an all out war directed indiscriminately against the people of Lebanon.

"This war has far reaching consequences and no politician can predict the consequences, but I can say that it has caused more damage to Israel's reputation than the 1982 (Israeli) invasion of Lebanon," added Dr. Abu Nowar.

Had Israel been seeking real peace it could have stopped flexing its muscles and resorted to reason, he said.

He added that Israel cannot expect Lebanon to demonstrate good intentions towards peace while being subjected to an aggression by the Jewish state.

Humanitarian group to send relief supplies to Lebanon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Sunday held their first meeting here to discuss means of raising and channelling relief supplies to the victims of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

According to the Jordan news agency, Petra, discussion covered coordination of Jordanian humanitarian organisation efforts with those of the Lebanese Red Cross Society.

The meeting was a direct response to a call by the Ministry of Social Development last week to various voluntary and non-governmental organisations to raise funds for and assist the victims of the war in Lebanon.

The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation has already taken steps towards collecting contributions, according to the ministry.

The meeting, held at the Amman office of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies was attended by the head of the Amman federation office, the president of Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Mohammad Hadid, and head of the International Committee of

the Red Cross office in Amman Michel Duraux.

Immediately following the meeting, Dr. Hadid announced JNRCS readiness to send relief supplies to Lebanon.

He said he conveyed the decision to the head of Lebanon's Red Cross Society who requested drugs and medical equipment be sent immediately.

Describing the Israeli attack on Lebanon as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, Dr. Hadid said that the main victims were the Lebanese civilian population.

The Israeli attacks are a violation of Article 52 of the 1977 Geneva Convention.

Meanwhile, the head of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat returned Sunday from Beirut where its members took part in an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting held to show solidarity with the Lebanese people.

Dr. Arabiyat delivered Jordan's address to the meeting outlining the causes of Arab weakness and the challenges facing the Arab Nation, noting that freedom and

democracy are the strongest tools a nation has to attain its aspired goals.

According to Dr. Arabiyat, the APU issued a statement at the end of the two-day meeting describing the Israeli action as an act of aggression on the whole Arab Nation, their flagrant violation of the United Nations (charter) and international laws and principles.

He said the APU statement considered the aggression as a dangerous blow to the Middle East peace process and an excuse for Israel to pressure Arab parties into accepting her conditions at the talks.

Ahmad Aklaleh, the Minister of State who led the delegation to the Arab League meeting in Damascus described the meeting as positive and successful and a reflection of the Arab Nation's support for Lebanon.

He said the delegates to the Damascus meeting believe solidarity should not be confined to words or condemnation of the Israeli actions but should be translated into practical steps to help Lebanon face the aggression.

Lebanese flood back to shattered south

(Continued from page 1)

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"They (Israelis) wanted to make trouble for Mr. Hariri's government. The Israelis said: 'You cannot rebuild your country unless we get what we want,' he said.

Among the hardest hit was Nabatiyeh, which faces the central sector of the Israeli-held enclave. The market town's elite Bayyad neighbourhood was levelled. Only stray cats moved among the charred cars and broken electric power poles.

Three villages on a ridge north of Nabatiyeh looked like they had been struck by a killer earthquake. These villages — Jbaa,

'Ein Bouswar and Jarjou — were known as "the eagles' nest" of Hizbollah.

Ammunition dumps, foxholes and underground tunnels in the villages were demolished.

Hizbollah militiamen were still present, but for the first time they were taking orders from the Lebanese army who used to look the other way when they trucked ammunition down the ridge or fired mortars at the Israeli "security zone."

When Hizbollah gunmen tried to prevent people from talking to reporters in Jarjou, Lebanese army troops quickly intervened and pushed back the guerrillas. The scene was repeated in Jbaa.

"The Lebanese army will have a greater role and greater burdens," Information Minister Michel Samaha told reporters in Jbaa. "The new role is going to be defined by the government soon."

Israel has demanded in the past that Lebanon and Syria control the guerrillas, but the Lebanese government has said it cannot prevent them from attacking Israeli troops regarded as occupying southern Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher negotiated the ceasefire to telephone conversations with leaders of Israel, Syria and Lebanon. It went into effect Saturday at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).

Israeli leaders contended the ceasefire accord was reached on an understanding that Hizbollah would stop firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, where two civilians were killed and 24 were wounded last week.

A Hizbollah statement in Beirut conceded that Katyushas would not be fired if Israel stopped its massive offensive. "But we shall continue to fight the occupier in South Lebanon until he is driven out," the statement added.

Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said no one could agree a comprehensive ceasefire with Israel and "even in the matter of rocket attacks there is no ceasefire or agreement."

"There are certain principles some people adhere to and are practising," Sheikh Nasrallah told a news conference in reference to Hizbollah's argument that it only fires Katyushas in response to Israeli attacks which cause civilian casualties.

"Israel wants to keep the door of aggression open and the resistance wants to continue in its operations because there is an occupation... all options remain

open because there is no agreement," he said.

"We were asked what was the best solution to end rocket attacks and he said: 'If the aggression stops the solution is easy. If they stop shelling villages and civilians and their aggression then the rocket attacks would stop,' he said.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Sunday that guerrillas would keep up their fight against Israel's occupation of the border strip in southern Lebanon, despite the Israeli ceasefire.

"There is still no sign that Israel wants to make peace. All the signs prove the contrary," he said. "Resistance to occupation is a legitimate right. To end it, occupation must end."

Israel has said Syria, with its 35,000 troops in Lebanon, helps the transit of arms to Hizbollah.

Mr. Assad, in a speech to mark army day, said an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories should "top the agenda" of Middle East peace talks but he doubted Israel was ready to make peace.

"He who wants peace does not fire rockets and bombs at civilians, and doesn't send in the air force to destroy their houses," he said.

"The shells and rockets of the aggressor may kill and destroy but they will never wipe out the will of the resistance," said the Syrian president.

Israel's armed forces chief-of-staff, General Ehud Barak, delivered a surprise tribute to Mr. Assad.

"Syria has a leader, Hafez Al Assad, who is a tough enemy. But we cannot ignore the fact that he is a very serious leader, very gifted, very responsible and with very great experience," Gen. Barak said.

Iran assured Hizbollah it could still count on its support regardless of its role in arranging the ceasefire.

It also blamed the United States for Israel's "anti-human aggression" against Lebanon and accused the United Nations of indifference.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Tehran "was the most clear voice to support and confirm the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon."

Iran "endeavoured to stem the continuation of aggression by the Zionists. Those endeavours bore fruit and the Jerusalem-occupying regime was thwarted in reaching its evil objectives," Iranian radio quoted him as saying.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- ★ Exhibition of British Archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic play entitled "Ahlam Arab Summit" at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Who Will Save Earth" at 6.30 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Current Work at Umm Al Jimal" by Dr. Bert de Vries of Calvo College at 7 p.m. at the American Centre of Oriental Research.

Belgium mourns

(Continued from page 1)

He was reinstated by a parliamentary vote.

Parliament, which is responsible for naming a regent when the monarch dies, must now convene within 10 days, an official statement said.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain — close friends of the Belgian royal couple — went to Motril to pay tribute and accompany King Baudouin's body to Granada airport.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands said the royal palace would be in official mourning until after King Baudouin's funeral.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who had a close relationship with King Baudouin, was one of the first to send condolences.

Jordan Times

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Cold war is no longer hot but...

The U.S., according to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Non-Proliferation Robert J. Einhorn, "cannot apply (arms) export-control standards across the board." U.S. weapons exports are "legitimate and serve defence requirements."

One wonders who accorded legitimacy to U.S. weapons sales: The White House, the National Security Council or the industry? Who manufactured the weapons that the Afghan Mujahideen are fighting their war over Kabul, for example? Why should China or North Korea be subjected to all this admonition for its arms sales to Iran, Syria or Libya? Is it not American weaponry that Israel used in its lethal "defence" of its northern borders?

We fail to see the sense in Mr. Einhorn's argument that his country's arms sales are legitimate and serve defence requirements when he must know that the industry is dictating the rules of U.S. arms sales. The arms industry has no concern for legitimacy or defence of any nation. This was demonstrated time and again over the past few decades in many spots around the world. Or are we supposed to forget the Iran-contra affair?

In the past-cold war era and the fall of the Soviet-Communist threat the U.S. and its Western allies seem to fail to position themselves on a path that would further peace and reduce the threat of war. What the world needs at the moment is a new world order based on respect of human rights of peoples and equal rights of nations and minorities. There is no threat, at the moment, to the West or the so-called civilised world. The only threat they face is borne out of their lust to dictate to other nations new norms of behaviour, and their greed to sell goods, cigarettes and alcohol. Almost all the wars fought in the last half a century were fought on behalf of superpowers with weapons supplied by those powers in exchange for cheap Third World resources. It is extremely rare to recall American — or for that matter any — weapons used for "legitimate and defensive means."

Many Third World intellectuals and politicians welcomed the demise of the oppressive regimes of the Eastern Communist bloc. They had thought the so-called civilised world, presumably threatened by the red bloc, had won and would then go on applying its ideals of freedom and fraternity. But now, well into this new era, they are disillusioned. Wars continue and the big powers only appear to be looking for new enemies.

We in the Middle East, and especially in a small and peace-loving country like Jordan, are extremely worried about American arms sales to neighbouring countries. We have always recognised that an abundance of arms will inevitably lead to war. What worries us more is that the U.S., the world's sole superpower, has not, as Mr. Einhorn admitted, formulated its arms sales policy yet.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily commented on the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon by saying that Israel was the major loser on the diplomatic front although it had destroyed homes and killed innocent people. Through launching this aggression, the Rabin government was hoping to put Lebanon and the Arab countries surrounding Israel face to face with a crucial test, hoping that Lebanon would sever its traditional links with Syria and fall under the mercy of the Jewish state, said the daily. Lebanon showed adherence to its links with the Arab World and voiced its demand for the implementation of all U.N. resolutions and an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, said the paper. Mr. Rabin had wanted to draw a wedge into the ranks of the United Arab front, but he obviously failed when the Arab ministers expressed their countries' total solidarity with Lebanon and their determination to pursue efforts to force Israel to pull out its forces from all Arab lands, noted the daily. The paper said that the aggression did not change anything on the ground and the resistance forces in the south remained intact. Furthermore, the Israelis had hoped to trigger another civil strife inside Lebanon and thus divert the resistance attention from the border region in the south, added the paper. It is true, said the paper, that Lebanon suffered casualties and sustained material losses, but Israel has failed to achieve its goals. In addition, said the paper, Mr. Rabin and his government are now exposed to the whole world as a racist group bent on violating all international laws.

THE IRANIAN foreign minister's involvement in the diplomatic efforts related to the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon meant that Iran was determined to force its presence in the Middle Eastern arena at all costs, according to a columnist in Al Dustour. What is happening in the region is clearly influenced by Iran, which is using the Hizbollah resistance group as a means to reaffirm its position, said Saleh Al Qabbani. The writer said that the Arabs feel grateful to Iran for supporting their just causes and their right to resist the Israeli enemy and its occupation of Arab land, but that Arabs, at the same time, want to stress that Iran cannot hope to extend its sphere of influence in the Arab region under the pretext of providing backing to the Arabs. Indeed, the presence of Iranian foreign minister side by side with the Arab foreign ministers in the Damascus meeting was solely intended to discuss means of stopping the rocket attacks on Israel. The writer said that Iran has thus been able to show the United States and Israel that it is behind any trouble in the region and is now hoping that it will cash in on this achievement in its dealings with Washington obviously at the expense of the Arab Nation.

By Waleed Sadi

Weekly Political Pulse

Disorderly new world order needs tidying up

Look anywhere and everywhere in the world you see conflicts or disputes of various dimensions among nations of the world going on at a rate unprecedented in recent history. To be sure, the international theatre has always been replete with armed conflicts or political disputes that sapped the energies of not only the parties directly involved but also of a majority of the international community. Yet the extent and the tempo of such regional and international quarrels have dramatically increased since the collapse of the bipolar international order.

Within the former Soviet Union, there are no less than a dozen of ethnic, religious or national conflicts that are bleeding the affected peoples literally to death.

In the Balkan region, the sort of war crimes and crimes against humanity that are still occurring there were unheard of in the "good old days", when the international order was distinctively bipolar. There is little doubt that the Bosnian situation would have been different from the ethnic and religious savagery that exists now between the Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims. These people had once set a fine example of peaceful co-existence among different religions and ethnic groups, but soon gave way to primitive national, ethnic and religious passions under the yoke of a unipolar world.

As much as one would want to bash communism for all its wrongs and shortcomings, and they are many, one may still give that order in rump Yugoslavia the credit for keeping peace and tranquillity among the now warring peoples of that country.

In the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflicts are still raging on. The Washington-brokered peace negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab parties has yet to deliver on its promise to bring peace to the area in spite of the lapse of more than twenty odd months.

In Africa, we have already seen the direct effect of unipolar world politics in Somalia. The bloody record of the United Nations' intervention there speaks for itself. The tragedy of Somalia would never have happened under the former international order because there were always checks and balances between the powerful nations of the world that ended up reducing, albeit not eliminating altogether, international interventions of the kind that we now have in Somalia.

Of course we all were euphoric at the sight of the first involvement of international forces in Somalia because everyone really thought that something good would come out of such an involvement. On balance, the suffering and agonies of the Somalis have increased rather than receded in the wake of the United Nations decision to move in militarily for the purpose of bringing hope to desperate people struggling to survive famine and internecine armed conflicts.

In the rest of Africa, the situation is anything but comforting especially when so much hope was pinned on the end of the Soviet Union as an end to sufferings in the African continent.

The scene in Latin America is not any better; there are problems of every nature that were also expected to be solved when the "satanic forces of communism" came to an abrupt end.

In the Asian continent, regional conflicts continue to brew. The Cambodian conflict is a fine example of how the new international order is anything but orderly.

One can go on and on depicting the various hot spots across the world and find a link between their manifestations and the current international disorder. This is not to decry the legacy of the old communist power. The legacy of old Moscow and its former allies is anything but humanising. Suffice to recall the environmental horrors that the community of nations has inherited from the Warsaw Pact countries. The record of the communist order was indeed dismal on practically all counts, except for the fact that it balanced the powers of other superpowers in the world and made them a bit more controllable.

What is needed therefore is the rise to power of another superpower, or a constellation of powers, that would act as a counterforce to the existing unipolar world politics. There is every hope that any such new international power would be democratic, balanced and responsible. There is no sign yet that any existing nation is capable of playing the proposed new role. History, however, is known to play tricks on the world, and bring surprises unthought of.

The rise of a new power however, is as sure as the next sunrise because this is the "sunset" of the international power politics, in the historical sense.

'The violence in southern Lebanon is a reminder of the urgent need to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace'

U.S. 'determined to advance peace process'

WASHINGTON — The United States is "determined to advance the peace process, and will not be deterred by those extremist groups who violently oppose peace," Edward P. Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, said in congressional testimony July 27.

Mr. Djerejian discussed the recent escalation of violence in southern Lebanon and northern Israel and U.S. policy on the peace process. Iraq, Iran and Islam during testimony to the House Committee of Foreign Affairs' subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"President Clinton and Secretary Christopher continue to attach great importance to the search for Arab-Israeli peace, and they believe there are real possibilities for breakthroughs in 1993," Mr. Djerejian said.

The United States continues to seek "Iraq's full compliance with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and with all measures taken by the coalition to monitor and enforce those resolutions," Mr. Djerejian said.

U.S. policy on Iran focuses on Iranian behaviour, he said. He pointed to Iran's quest for weapons of mass destruction, support of terrorism, opposition to the peace process, subversive activities against its neighbours and human rights violations.

Mr. Djerejian reiterated U.S. respect for Islam, saying "We reject the notion that a renewed emphasis on traditional values in many parts of the Islamic world must lead inevitably to conflict with the West." He stressed that the United States is against extremism — "whether in a religious or secular guise."

The following is the official text of Mr. Djerejian's statement.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee, when I was asked some time ago to come up to testify, we agreed to a briefing on the full range of issues in U.S. policy towards the Middle East. I intend to fulfill that commitment, but I know that you are very concerned about the recent developments in southern Lebanon, so I will start my statement with some observations about the current hostilities. Afterwards, I will review the peace process, Iraq and Iran, and offer some further comments on Islam and the United States policy on this subject.

Renewed fighting in Lebanon

We are very disturbed by the latest escalation of violence in southern Lebanon and northern Israel. The decision to cut short Secretary Christopher's trip to Asia and Australia reflects the gravity with which the administration views the outbreak of hostilities.

We have held intensive discussions with the governments concerned and have called on all the parties to exercise restraint. Secretary Christopher, speaking

from Singapore, noted that this violence is counterproductive for the peace process and said that we are working urgently with our Russian co-sponsor to end this violence.

We deeply regret this latest outbreak of violence in southern Lebanon and northern Israel.

The U.S. remains determined to advance the peace process, and will not be deterred by those extremist groups who violently oppose peace. Secretary Christopher has been an opponent of the peace process and that we must not let the opponents of the peace process undermine it. We will continue to urge the parties to resolve their differences through negotiations and we will do our

and frequent consultations with the parties. The visits to Washington of Prime Minister Rabin, President Mubarak and King Hussein also afforded President Clinton the opportunity to explore the prospects for peace and reaffirm his strong commitment to achieving progress in the talks.

In May and when negotiations resumed in June, the Israeli and Palestinian sides worked to narrow differences on a draft Declaration of Principles which would guide their negotiations on interim self-government negotiations. Each side put forward a draft. They created working groups in which they debated the concept of interim self-government and issues related to

"We must never permit the actions of a violent minority of any creed or origin to form our attitudes towards entire groups. While we must be vigilant in protecting our basic values and democratic way of life, we also need to determine what we have in common with other societies. While there are important differences, we and the vast majority of peoples of the Middle East share common aspirations of peace, social justice and prosperity for ourselves and our children."

part to contribute to a settlement. The violence in southern Lebanon is yet another reminder of the urgent need to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Let me now describe for you the status of the negotiations.

Middle East peace process

As the secretary prepares for his second trip to the Middle East, I would like to give you our assessment of where we are in the negotiations since my last appearance before the subcommittee and to assess the prospects for progress in the months ahead. President Clinton and Secretary Christopher continue to attach great importance to the search for Arab-Israeli peace, and they believe there are real possibilities for breakthroughs in 1993. In the first instance, it is essential that the parties themselves take the decisions necessary to translate the promise of peace into a reality. The United States will continue to do everything it can to assist them in the effort. Our role continues to be one of a full partner and honest broker with all the parties.

After a prolonged hiatus, the bilateral peace negotiations resumed in Washington in May. Secretary Christopher exerted considerable efforts to create the conditions for the resumption of negotiations, including intensive

land and water. They also created a working group on human rights to deal with the conditions on the ground.

The U.S. team spent many hours in intensive discussions and debate with both sides, designed to think through the positions they had put forward and to see whether ideas could be conceived to help bridge the positions.

On May 12, the U.S. put forward a short political statement which had two purposes: first, to convey to Israelis and Palestinians a sense of movement in the negotiations and second, to try to capture areas of emerging agreement in the respective Israeli and Palestinian positions. When the parties reconvened in Washington in June, the U.S. team continued working intensively with the two sides in an effort to narrow substantive differences. After nearly 30 hours of discussion, the U.S. put forward a draft on June 30 which was broader in scope and which could serve as a basis for further discussion and elaboration between the parties.

Since then, we have been in almost constant contact with the parties to hear their views and detailed comments on the draft. Our special Middle East coordinator for the peace talks, Dennis Ross, and I travelled with our team to the region several weeks ago to probe further for detailed reactions to the draft. We made clear that the draft is not a

statement of U.S. policy, and it is not set in stone. Rather it is, and remains, a tool for the parties to use to overcome differences and reach a Declaration of Principles. Secretary Christopher will intensify this effort during his visit to the region. We believe this is a practical and workable way to proceed, and look forward to detailed substantive discussions with the negotiating parties.

We have also been discussing with the parties the concept of "early empowerment," that is, the early transfer to Palestinians of significant powers and responsibilities even before formal agreement is reached on interim self-government arrangements. In our discussions, we have made clear our view that such early empowerment is not an end in itself, nor a substitute for interim self-government, nor a new interim phase. Rather, it is an opportunity for Palestinians to start building institutions and preparing to govern themselves. We also hope to attract international financial support for this concept. Indeed, empowerment is the essence of interim self-government and we are encouraging all sides to take it seriously.

I have focused on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but I also want to mention where things stand in the other bilateral negotiations and in the multilateral discussions. Syria and Israel continue to negotiate over a Declaration of Principles. They remain divided over the core issues of withdrawal, peace and security, as well as over the relationship between bilateral and comprehensive peace. From our recent discussions in the region with Prime Minister Rabin and President Asad, it is clear that these differences, however deep, have not changed both parties' fundamental commitment to negotiate peace. This sustained engagement by Syria and Israel is important. Over the past months, President Clinton has been in contact with the leaders of both sides, and we believe that active U.S. intermediation — in which we invest in and build on the ideas and proposals of the two parties — holds real promise. Secretary Christopher will be pursuing this approach during his upcoming trip.

Jordan and Israel have nearly concluded work on a substantive agenda, and experts from both sides continue their intensive engagement on issues ranging from the environment to banking.

While I will address the renewed violence and fighting in Lebanon momentarily, let me say that Lebanon and Israel have made some progress in narrowing differences on the formation of a security subcommittee. Both sides have submitted drafts and the Lebanese are now considering the latest Israeli proposals made as the negotiations advanced in June. Despite the

Continued on page 5

In the shadow of the Likud

By Richard Ablin

The writer is a Jerusalem-based free-lancer. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Yitzhak Rabin seems to be suffering from a split personality.

On the one hand, he has led us to believe that he sincerely wishes to achieve an autonomy system in the occupied areas, as an intermediate step to a peace based upon territorial compromise. On the other hand, in the negotiations ostensibly intended to create such a system, he increasingly acts as if he feels he must adopt positions indistinguishable from those of the Likud — which were at least graced with the virtue of consistency.

In the various leaks about the arguments over the new U.S. "principles" paper, we learn that Israel refuses to agree to the following Palestinian demands: — That the geographical borders or limits of the area of responsibility and of the (limited) powers of the autonomy system be defined. Instead of agreement to this obvious requirement by any subordinate government, we hear reverberations of the old Likud slogan about a "functional" rather than a "territorial" autonomy. What on earth does this mean? Is a tax department supposed to send tax bills without knowing the borders of its area of responsibility?

— To grant the principle that the autonomy regime should have any powers over public land and water. This is precisely the central point over which the Likud-led autonomy negotiations of 1980 collapsed! How can "autonomy" be meaningful if it does not imply some measure of control over such essential elements of the local public welfare?

How on earth can Mr. Rabin oppose such powers in principle? At the very least, why shouldn't he accept the principle of joint control of public lands, rather than issuing a flat denial which flies in the face of the

credibility of his wish for autonomy?

The same applies even more obviously to the issue of water. On the one side, Israel's total control over this vital resource since 1967, with obvious prejudice in favour of Israeli users, can in no way be regarded as anything but a part of the rule of a conqueror. On the other hand, there are legitimate interests to the "downstream" regions (mainly in Israel within the Green Line) for a watershed, calling for cooperation or joint control of at least portions of the water resources of the "upstream" area (mainly in the West Bank). If Mr. Rabin is serious, he should at least offer joint control.

The position taken by "our side" in these negotiations smacks more and more of the tactics of the Arabs in their most obscurantist moods. The best example of this tendency is provided by the report that "Rabin has objected to the U.S. draft saying that 'the question of Jerusalem could be raised in the final status talks'."

This absurd position is the precise counterpart of the intermittent Palestinian demand that the exact final status of Jerusalem be defined (as they wish it to be) in the present negotiations for autonomy! Mr. Rabin's statement boggles the mind because Israel has since Camp David agreed that all questions — including Jerusalem — were within the purview of the final status negotiations.

This list of Israeli refusals goes far beyond the reasonable limit of tactical considerations, striking at the heart of a meaningful autonomy system.

Either Mr. Rabin is in favour of a two-stage withdrawal from our present status of conqueror, or he isn't. Many of us voted for him believing that his objective in this vital question distinguished him from the Likud leaders' poorly hidden objective of a permanent conquest. That faith has been very badly frayed.

LETTERS

Untied potential

To the Editor:

I read with interest the Jordan Times' editorial (July 13, 1993) calling for lower interest rates in response to higher than expected inflation figures. The Jordan Times is right to be concerned about rising inflation because it is true that the least well-off in society suffer most from inflation. Not only does inflation increase the cost of living, but it erodes the savings and assets which are the foundations of economic and political stability.

Yet, the analysis presented by the editorial contains some deep flaws which lead to some rather misguided policy recommendations. It is suggested that higher than usual bank deposits have led to surplus liquidity and, in monetarist terms "too much money chasing too few goods", hence higher prices. It seems folly, therefore to encourage people to save less by cutting interest rates, especially in times of inflation, when high interest rates offer some security against inflation. The Jordan Times claims that "the safest way to scale down inflation is for banks to reduce interest rates on deposits and savings to even lower levels, whereby the public would be forced to seek a higher return on their money by investing in projects rather than be satisfied with interest from banks." The logic behind this assertion is deeply flawed.

First of all, the amount of investment in an economy cannot exceed the amount of savings, so if interest rates are cut, banks will have fewer funds to offer for investment. Past experience has shown that when interest rates are cut (and saving made less attractive) there is an increase in consumption, which in Jordan would likely manifest itself as a massive increase in imported goods. There would be a consumer boom, which would increase inflation even more, and possibly a devaluation of the currency (as demand for foreign exchange to buy imports increases) which would render import prices even higher.

There are no grounds to assume, as the editorial does, that anyone with some savings will have either the will or the know-how to turn their money into a successful "project". That is why we have banks: so that a person with an idea but no capital can get the funds to put their idea to work, and so that a person with capital, but no idea, can put their capital to work. When people do try to seek financial security outside Jordanian banks, they tend to invest in real estate, or for those with means, send their money to European and American banks. Reducing interest rates any further would deprive the economy of much needed investment funds.

So what is the solution if it is not found by tinkering with the level of interest rates? If we want to increase investment, we must create opportunities for successful projects. At the moment, bureaucracy prevents entrepreneurs from putting their ideas and capital to good use. There are often complaints that it can take months to obtain the necessary licences and permits to start a business, and customs formalities have been known to delay the importation of raw materials for as long. If this is true, then procedures must be simplified.

Second, the government must create a coherent, fair and progressive taxation system which rewards productive investment and savings and discourages consumption.

Finally, the government has been talking for years about privatisation but has done precious little about it. State owned enterprises should be moved to the private sector and preferably of their savings. This will spread capital and give to even the most modest investor a stake in the economic, financial and political stability of Jordan. Many Latin American and European countries have successfully privatised their economies and Jordan would do well to study their experiences.

There is a great deal of underused capital, Jordan and its micro-economic reform. The time for grand macro-economic meddlings is a long one. If the government wants the people to produce and invest, it must untie their hands and the sooner the better.

Ali Abu Nimah,
c/o Embassy of Jordan,
Rome, Italy.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

U.S. attaches importance to peace process

(Continued from page 4)

escalation in Lebanon, it is our intent to pursue these efforts with both the Lebanese and Israelis in the weeks ahead.

Multilateral negotiations

The multilateral dimension of the process is working well. As I have noted before, the multilateral track is designed to facilitate and complement the bilateral negotiations. One of the goals of the multilateral negotiations is to demonstrate that peace will bring concrete benefits to all the people of the region. This includes not only the parties in the bilateral negotiations, but also states in the Maghreb (North Africa) and the Gulf.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of co-chairing the meeting in Moscow of the Multilateral Steering Group along with the director for the Middle East and North Africa from the Russian Foreign Ministry. Other participants were Israeli, a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia (representing the Gulf Cooperation Council), Tunisia (representing the Maghreb), the EC, Japan and Canada. Despite our continuing urging, Syria and Lebanon have yet to participate in the multilateral phase of the peace process. They say they will not attend until the bilateral talks progress in the bilateral. I would like to point out that Israel and the United Nations are now represented in all groups as well.

The steering group produced a number of positive results. We believe there is major symbolic significance in the group's agreeing for the first time to convene two of its five working groups in the Middle East region this fall — the Refugee group in Tunisia, and the Environment group in Cairo. This is no small accomplishment. Leading the way in this effort, Egypt hosted an intersectoral workshop on Arms Control and Regional Security in early July.

It is a further measure of progress that the group agreed on language for the final statement to encourage badly needed financial support for the Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza. Namely, as part of its aim of stimulating regional economic development, the steering group recognised the particular needs of the Palestinians as they move towards interim self-government. The steering group also expressed its hopes that additional funds will be made available to the Palestinians to meet their current pressing needs and responsibilities and those that might be assumed even prior to agreements reached between Israel and the Palestinians on interim self-governing arrangements.

The five multilateral working groups are making progress in addressing some of the region's fundamental needs. Let me briefly describe some of their activities:

— The Economic Development Working Group is engaged in a wide range of activities including infrastructure training and tourism development. Using a World Bank economic analysis, this group is identifying priority infrastructure projects for the region and the occupied territories.

— The Water Working Group has 12 separate activities under way, including workshops, seminars, and on-the-ground studies of water conservation, demand management, brackish water desalination and enhancing water availability.

The Refugee Working Group is dealing with issues of family reunification, human resource development (including training and job creation), public health and child welfare and social and economic support systems.

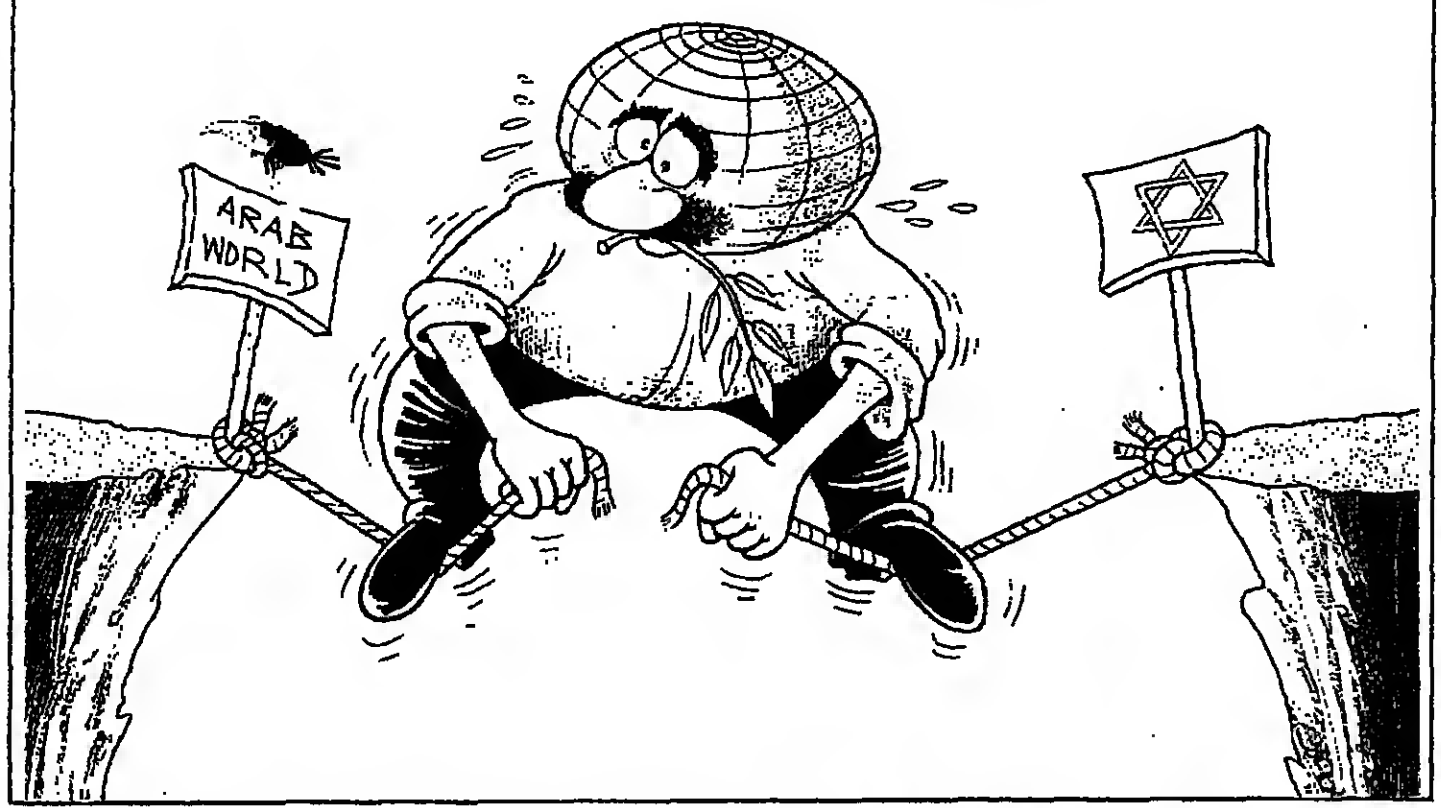
— The Environment Working Group has been holding workshops, training seminars, and discussing long-term projects dealing with maritime pollution, wastewater treatment alternatives, environmental management, and desertification.

— The Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group is furthering its work in confidence-building measures with the challenging goal of enhancing regional stability by developing expertise on arms control issues.

We view the robust activities of these working groups as laying an important foundation upon which durable and cooperative exchanges among all parties of the region can deepen and expand in the future. Indeed, such cooperative regional endeavours would constitute an important element of the vision of peace related to an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Before I move on to other topics, I would like to make an important point about the continued U.S. commitment to the peace process. Two factors are key — that the parties themselves are committed to the process and that the issues are amenable to being worked out in these negotiations. So long as those two

M. KAHIL



lawlessness is and will remain unwavering, as demonstrated by the strike against the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in response to the attempted assassination of former President Bush.

I must tell you that we see no evidence that the government of Saddam Hussein is prepared to comply fully with the U.N. resolutions. Iraq's initial refusal to allow UNSCOM cameras at missile production facilities was in conflict with an absolutely central provision of the resolutions requiring long-term monitoring of weapons production capabilities. This is found in U.N. Security resolutions 687 and 715. There is no alternative to Iraq's full compliance. Without long-term monitoring all the work to date on weapons destruction would be wasted. I would add that this is an issue on which support in the Security Council is very strong. We intend to continue close cooperation with our allies to ensure that the mission of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq is fulfilled.

In order to alleviate some of the suffering visited on the Iraqi people by Saddam Hussein's rule, the U.S. supports the implementation of resolutions 706/712 which allow Iraq to sell oil to finance the purchase of food and other basic supplies. The resolutions require that the U.N. control Iraq's overseas oil sales, and the proceeds from those sales, to ensure that they are used to fund humanitarian supplies and U.N. operations in Iraq. Under these resolutions, the U.N. would also monitor the distribution of humanitarian supplies. It is essential that the implementation of resolutions 706/712 not become a back door to the lifting of sanctions without full compliance with all relevant resolutions. The last round of talks with Iraq were recessed without result. We will be watching attentively to ensure that any agreement fully meets the need for adequate monitoring of both sale of the oil and the distribution of humanitarian items to all the people in Iraq, not just to supporters of the regime. For example, we believe that Saddam Hussein's continuing blockade of northern Iraq is inconsistent with the requirements of resolutions 706/712, and must be lifted. Additionally, as agreed in Resolution 712 and in order to maintain adequate monitoring, we strongly support the use of the oil sold pursuant to 706/712.

Our efforts to limit repression under UNSCR 688 continue and are consistent with our goal of maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq. In the south, the no-fly zone has prevented Iraqi air attacks and limited large-scale offensive action. Smaller-scale repression by Saddam Hussein's forces continues as do efforts to drain portions of the marshes and burn villages. The situation

would be far worse, in our view, were coalition aircraft not overflying the area on a daily basis. In the north, operation Provide Comfort was recently renewed by the Turkish parliament. We welcome Turkey's action which was taken by a large majority and which demonstrates Turkey's ongoing support for the coalition.

Our humanitarian concern for the people of Iraq is steadfast. In June, we participated actively at a conference in Geneva which set priorities for international assistance programmes. We continue to press our allies in the U.N. for creation of a commission to investigate Iraq's war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the north, our goals are to prevent a crisis next winter and to begin rehabilitation for the most destitute population, impoverished by Iraq's relentless embargo of its own people. Our relief efforts were strengthened by the additional \$23 million appropriated in the Defence Department's supplemental appropriation. A part

of these funds will go for local purchase of crops to avert a shortage of grain this winter. We continue to support relief in southern and central Iraq with consideration given to the need to monitor distribution adequately.

In all of these areas we see the need for consistency, strong U.S. leadership, and the maintenance of broad international support. We have that support. We have that support. The coalition is fundamentally solid. We will continue to enforce the U.N. resolutions and to demand Iraq's full compliance, now and in the future. At the same time, we will continue to hold out the prospect of cooperation and a lightening of burdens to a future Iraqi leadership committed to a representative government that reflects Iraq's diverse population, and which is willing to live in peace with its own people and its neighbors.

Iran

Our differences with the Iranian government grow from our deep objections to specific Iranian behaviour. Those objections focus on five areas.

First is Iran's quest for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. We are working with our allies to develop a consensus on multilateral controls on the export of sensitive technology to Iran. We are particularly concerned with preventing Iran from acquiring the means to produce and deploy nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as ballistic missiles.

Second is Iran's continued involvement in terrorism and assassination worldwide. Since 1988, Iran's record of assassinating political dissidents forms a consistent and continuing pattern reflecting Iranian policy approved at the highest levels. Until it abandons support for terrorism and terrorist groups, we will maintain existing unilateral counterterrorism sanctions on Iran.

The third area of Iranian behaviour to which we strongly object is its support and advocacy of violence to stop the Arab-Israeli peace process. Iran's efforts to mobilise extremist groups — both Islamic and secular — against the peace process is especially troubling. Iran continues to call publicly, at the highest levels, for the destruction of Israel. The fighting in southern Lebanon today has been a deliberate provocation by Hizbollah, a terrorist organisation which receives extensive support from Iran.

The fourth aspect of objectionable Iranian behaviour is its threats and subversive activities against its neighbours.

Fifth is Iran's dismal human rights record, which is a matter of continuing concern.

Our long-standing sanctions remain. In addition, we seek in-

respond to this offer, we continue an indirect dialogue through the Swiss. In any case, normal relations with Tehran are impossible as long as Iran continues to engage in its current behaviour.

Islam and the U.S.

Let me conclude with a few words about a subject I have addressed in the past before this committee, but which warrants our continuing close attention, particularly in light of heightened public concerns caused by the World Trade Centre bombing and the attempts against other targets in the New York area. That is Islam, and U.S. government policy.

As Secretary Christopher, I, and other administration spokesmen have made clear, we view Islam with profound respect. As a civilising force in history, it has enriched our own culture; it is the religion of many American citizens. We reject the notion that a renewed emphasis on traditional values in many parts of the Islamic World must lead inevitably to conflict with the West. We

economic, educational and political opportunities — gives the extremists their constituency in each country.

The U.S. can and does have close relationships and dialogue with states which describe themselves as Islamic and seek to govern in accordance with the traditions of Islam. Also, we have taken the lead internationally in a number of instances to alleviate Muslim suffering — in Kuwait, in Somalia, and in northern and southern Iraq. Further, our efforts in trying to achieve an Arab-Israeli peace settlement are based on a fervent desire to bring peace and prosperity to all the peoples of the region.

But let me be clear. We part company with those individuals — and governments — who seek to advance their agenda through violence, through terror, through intolerance, through coercion. Our quarrel is with extremism, whether in a religious or secular guise. And we will oppose it through all appropriate means. Whether it occurs on the streets of New York or Mogadishu. And I would join in the praise for the law enforcement agencies which have thwarted acts of terrorism both here and abroad.

Those who seek to promote social justice and broaden political participation in the Middle East and North Africa through peaceful means will find us supportive, as we have been elsewhere. But those who would use the democratic process merely to achieve and monopolise political power will not find us on their side. As I have said before: while we support the principle of "one man, one vote," we do not support "one-man, one-vote, one time."

I would like to close with a perspective based on my years as a public servant, as someone with long experience in the Middle East, and as a son of immigrants. America's strength lies in its respect for law combined with its tolerance of the customs, religions and practices of the many immigrants who have made this country great. These noble attributes attract people to our shores and cause other nations to emulate our system.

We must never permit the actions of a violent minority of any creed or origin to form our attitudes towards entire groups. While we must be vigilant in protecting our basic values and democratic way of life, we also need to determine what we have in common with other societies. While there are important differences, we and the vast majority of peoples of the Middle East share common aspirations of peace, social justice and prosperity for ourselves and our children.

As the president and secretary have said repeatedly, we cannot separate our foreign from our domestic policies. The success of our policies in the Middle East rests more than we might imagine on the perception that the United States is a land of vigilance wedded with tolerance and firmness guided by fairness — United States Information Agency.

Swiss village gives temporary shelter to Bosnian orphans

By Mitya New
Reuters

TROGEN, Switzerland — In the hills of eastern Switzerland a group of Bosnian children are recovering from the trauma of war.

Evacuated from an orphanage in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, the 24 children between the ages of one and 13 have now stopped wetting their beds, boarding every morsel of food and sleeping in the cellar in case of an air raid.

"For the children this is the start of a new life," Nedžad Besic, a professor of pedagogy and psychology from Zenica, said in an interview at Switzerland's Pestalozzi Dorf (village).

"In Zenica there is no food and no normal life for these children," he added.

Mr. Besic, together with his wife and six other parents, their own children and the orphans were granted temporary visas by the Swiss authorities in December and arrived at the village on Christmas day.

They left behind them a war-ravaged town, the scene of heavy fighting between Bosnian Croats and Muslims.

The Pestalozzi village has offered shelter to more than 1,300 children from all over the world since 1946. Originally intended as a temporary haven for European children left homeless and orphaned by World War II, it has now become a permanent home primarily for refugee children from the Third World.

"In the early years the kids returned to their homes after spending a few months here, but once the Dorf started taking refugee children it was clear they would have to stay because conditions in their own countries were too dangerous," said Peter Kaeser, head of the Dorf administration.

Mr. Kaeser admitted the Pestalozzi Dorf probably produced people who were more at home in Switzerland than in their countries of origin.

"There is a certain internationalisation among all of the children living here," he said.

"The Tibetans are the ones who keep to their roots most and still pray together early every morning in their chalet."

But he added that many of the former children showed an active interest in their nation's affairs after leaving the village.

"Many of the Tibetans who grew up here have become leading pillars of the Tibetan community in Europe," he said.

OPENING OF PEDIATRIC CLINIC & PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY CLINIC

Dr. Fawzi AL-Hammouri
Consultant Pediatrician & Pediatric Endocrinologist
Member of the Royal College of Physicians (LONDON)
Member of the British Diabetic Association
Ass. Prof. at the medical school-J.U.S.T (formerly)

Announces the opening of his private clinic at the Specialty Hospital, Shmeisani Tel. 693693

THE MODERN MONTESSORI SCHOOL (MMS)

P.O.Box 2444, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 660504, Fax: 684905

We are pleased to announce that registration for Grades 1, 2 and 3 is open for the scholastic year 1993/1994 at our current location in Shmeisani until completion of construction of the new school building, at which time registration for Grades 4 to 6 will start for the scholastic year 1994/1995. The school will upgrade the classes yearly allowing the students to reach high school without any delays.

Registration hours: From 8:1:30 and from 4-6.
Last date for accepting applications: August 18, 1993

The construction of the new school building is currently ongoing on an 18,000m² land opposite the King Hussein Medical City. The school has been designed to meet international school requirements and will be equipped in accordance with the Montessori system, with modern equipped laboratories, library, cafeteria, gallery, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, indoor and outdoor playgrounds.

Our philosophy, goals, and objectives:
Our philosophy and objectives are to provide a stimulating, prepared environment for the student in order to foster respect for learning, joy in achievement and growth of the individual through independence, discovery, success and inner discipline.

Our programme is mostly individualised and will always keep the students as the foremost priority.

The school is organised to encourage a high level of cooperative planning, teaching and evaluating designed to produce success in advancing the learning process.

All our Montessori classrooms are totally equipped with specially designed and sequenced materials which Dr. Montessori devised. These materials, together with highly trained and Montessori certified management and teachers, provide a classroom where the child is stimulated and challenged, but never pressured.

Our main objective is to achieve the following goals for each student:

- 1) Develop a positive attitude towards him/herself, school and life.
- 2) Become a self-confident, independent learner.
- 3) Develop habits of concentration for his/her work.
- 4) Foster curiosity in the student.
- 5) Develop initiative and persistence.
- 6) Achieve inner security and sense of order.
- 7) Help each student develop his sensory motor skills.
- 8) Sharpen his/her ability to discriminate and judge.
- 9) Assist social development.
- 10) Develop creative intelligence and imagination.

In conclusion, we are dedicated to helping each student develop within himself the fundamental skills, habits, attitudes, appreciations and ideas which are essential for a lifetime of creative learning.

"Never let a child risk failure until he has a reasonable chance of success," Dr. Maria Montessori.

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Indoors
Lunch 1.00 Till 3.30 P.M.
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EBRD says eastern Europe heading further into recession

LONDON (AFP) — After two years of recession, eastern European output fell again in the first quarter of 1993, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said in its quarterly report Monday.

The continued downturn was caused notably by poor agricultural performances linked to the drought hitting much of the region, the bank added.

As well as the drought, the "decline was fortified by slow decision-making on the exact modalities of farm privatisation," leading to a "significantly reduced output from state farms and cooperatives" which hit output.

The industrial results for the first four months of the year were "discouraging," the EBRD said, adding that "Poland is still the only country in the region which is clearly pulling out of recession."

The main cause was a fall in western European Demand, notably from Germany.

The EBRD said the efforts to control inflation had become "more uneven" since mid-1992 while the balance of payments had deteriorated, several countries dropping into the red.

Exports had fallen in exports and imports had increased because of the agricultural crisis, an increase in taxes in Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia and severe capital flow problems.

The bank said that the expansion of the private sector in Bulgaria was "encouraging" but "not a sufficient basis for a sustainable economic recovery."

It praised the new government for controlling prices and tightening taxes and the money supply but condemned its "limited ability"

agreeing a consensus to allow major reforms, concluding that the only likely improvement this year was a slowing up in the rate of economic decline.

The bank said the "worse than expected" deterioration in trade between the Czech and Slovak republics would harm both countries, underlining that Bratislava would suffer more from the stoppage of tax transfers between the two parts of the former Czechoslovakia.

Hungary was affected by the fall in German demand for its exports and a drought-hit agricultural sector, giving the country "slim" chances of returning to growth in 1993.

The EBRD admitted the unreliability of statistics on Poland, but praised the modernisation of its banking system though saying its two per cent growth target for the year was "too optimistic" if reports of the agricultural downturn proved true.

For Romania, the main problem was "to prevent a depletion of foreign currency reserves and control inflation," added to by a burdensome public debt.

Among the ex-Yugoslav republics, Croatia was mentioned as risking "hyper-inflation" in the short-term but adding that in the medium to long term, Croatia was one of the "best placed" in eastern Europe given its central position, tourism, agriculture, shipbuilding and links with a wealthy diaspora.

In the immediate future, the situation of Macedonia was "very concerning" because of the war on its borders, the sanctions against Serbia and Greek hostility.

The EBRD said that in most former Soviet states, where

armed conflict is not raging, disagreements between parliament, president and government remain "the major obstacle to economic stabilisation."

The bank said that new "so-called anti-crisis plans" and "action plans" have been bogged down in the decision-making phase or impeded by limited implementation capacity.

After a 19 per cent fall in the output of the former Soviet states in the past year, industrial output remained stable in the first four months of 1993 in "most republics," including Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic states.

However, the report said oil production had fallen and warned that Russia's decision to export oil to western Europe rather than to other former Soviet republics meant industrial production in these republics could suffer in the future.

In the ruble zone and in Ukraine, there are "few signs of financial stabilisation" and the average rate of monthly inflation was "20 to 25 per cent," even more in Ukraine, the bank said.

"The primary source of inflation in the ruble zone has been extremely loose fiscal and monetary policies," the report added, saying that the republics had preferred to boost production and restrict unemployment.

However, the three Baltic republics had "achieved a significant reduction in their rates of inflation through tight financial policies."

Except for the "rapid advances" of privatisation in Russia, the bank said the year had shown "little progress" among the former Soviet states towards developing market economies.

Israel opens options exchange

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) said it opened a long-awaited Israeli options market Sunday, offering trading on the MAOF index, which lists the market's 25 most heavily traded shares.

Dealers expected volume to be thin in the first few days as operators learned the rules of the "MAOF" market, which began trading at 1330 (1030 GMT) after a year of delays.

"Most operators will only taste the waters in order to train their organisations," said one options expert.

"Big institutional investors, which are expected to be major writers of options, will at first watch the trading from the sidelines," he said.

TASE Chairman Haim Stoessel, who aims to lure foreign investors, said last month the options market would make the exchange more attractive, enabling hedging of investments.

Cuba says it will seek own economic model to survive

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's communist authorities have said the crisis-hit island should leave behind outdated former Soviet-style theories of central economic planning and seek its own model of economic recovery and development.

"What we're talking about now is seeking our own path, our own way of organising and our own economic plan, in short, our own model," state-run Radio Rebelde said in a commentary.

It appeared to reflect a clear intention by the communist government to make a clean break from the often rigid economic theories and policies that had prevailed while Cuba was a member of the now-defunct Soviet trading bloc Comecon.

The commentary followed a speech by President Fidel Castro in which he announced a number of economic measures to boost hard currency earnings by the state. One of these was the removal of a ban on Cubans owning convertible currency.

President Castro said Cuba's first priority was economic survival and this was now more important than trying to "perfect" the

socialist system that was the fruit of the revolution he led in 1959.

Radio Rebelde said Cuba's past membership of Comecon had "obliged" the country to subscribe to certain economic blueprints and models of centralisation and planning.

"(These models), while they theoretically appeared effective on paper, were often conceived for use in a different place and historical process than our own," the radio said.

President Castro and other Cuban leaders have made no secret of the fact that the economic change of course is a direct response to a crippling recession triggered by the collapse of Cuba's past trade and aid ties with the ex-Soviet Bloc.

Radio Rebelde said the island should stop looking back with nostalgia to the time when this seer economic relationship meant Cuba could ignore a long-standing U.S. trade embargo.

It added that while Cuba could show achievements in social justice, education and science unrivalled in Latin America, the struggle for survival "could dam-

age these advances and force the Cuban state to postpone measures for public benefit."

A leading Cuban economist, Jose Luis Rodriguez, said Thursday the economy remained in the grip of recession and no growth could be expected this year.

Imports have slumped and the island's nearly 11 million people are being increasingly squeezed by acute shortages of food, fuel, medicines and basic consumer goods, as well as energy and transport cutbacks.

Mr. Rodriguez said a process of economic reform had been started which contemplated more foreign investment and introducing internal market regulatory mechanisms like monetary, tax and exchange rate policies.

These policies would be directed at trying to correct the lopsided internal economy, which was distorted by a large, inflationary black market.

The language used by Mr. Rodriguez contrasted sharply with the largely ideological discourses on socialist economics which official Cuban economists had been used to giving in the past.

Drought, low oil prices hit Algerian growth

ALGIERS (R) — Low oil prices and drought pushed Algeria's economic development in the first half of this year below the two per cent target set for 1993, the government said at the weekend.

Spokesman Messaoud Ait Chaalal told local journalists that the two per cent growth target would be achieved in the second part of the year by a focus on building and public works.

The government newspaper El Moudjahid Sunday, reporting his Saturday briefing, said Mr. Ait Chaalal particularly blamed the drop in petroleum revenue for knocking growth off course.

Algeria relies on its oil and gas exports for some 90 per cent of foreign income, and its national plan for 1993, envisaging growth at 2.1 per cent, was based on oil earning \$21 a barrel. Official figures put growth in 1992 at 2.3 per cent.

Mr. Ait Chaalal pointed out that the average price this first half-year had dropped to around \$19 a barrel.

Agricultural development had been hit by drought, especially in the west of the country, he said. No figures were reported.

Last April, the government set up a team of experts to help farmers whose crops and livestock fodder were destroyed by drought in western and some central areas of the country.

OAPEC expects world oil demand to rise

ABU DHABI (AFP) — World oil demand is expected to rise to 66.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in the third quarter, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said Sunday.

The figure is around 700,000 b/d higher than demand in the third quarter of 1992, the Cairo-based OAPEC said in a study published by the United Arab Emirates semi-official newspaper

Al Itihad.

"Supplies from outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will reach 42.2 million b/d in the third quarter of 1993, a decline by 400,000 b/d from the third quarter of 1992," the study said.

While independent producers supply two-thirds of the amount, OPEC is expected to make up the remaining 24.3 million b/d. But the 12-nation group is believed to be producing more, and independent estimates have put its production at more than 24.5 million b/d in July.

The figure is far higher than OPEC's official output ceiling of 23.58 million b/d because of reported quota violations by Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Nigeria and other members.

Oversupply has kept oil prices at around \$4 below OPEC's benchmark of \$21 a barrel.

OPEC President Jean Ping of Gabon toured key group members in the Gulf last week to prepare for an emergency meeting to tackle overproduction and Iraq's possible return to the oil market after a three-year U.N. embargo.

OAPEC, which groups 10 Arab oil producers, said demand in the European Community was expected to drop by 200,000 b/d to 13.4 million b/d from July to September, compared to the same period last year.

China's newest export push — jobless workers

PEKING (R) — A Chinese city has a novel scheme to help hundreds of thousands of rust-belt workers left jobless by the closing of money-losing state industries.

It wants to ship them abroad. Local and central government officials in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning province in heavily industrialised northeast China, have approved a new "overseas employment agency" to help Chinese workers find jobs in other countries.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday the wholesale export of workers was in line with China's 14-year-old policy of carrying out market-style reforms and ending its economic isolation.

The agency, approved by China's Labour Department, was set up to meet the needs of the market economy, opening the employment market too to the outside world," Xinhua said.

Unemployment has skyrocketed in Liaoning and the neighbouring rust-belt province of

Jilin, where huge, money-losing state-run industries have been radically shrunk or shut down entirely as central government subsidies have dried up.

At the same time, mounting rural population pressure has forced millions of farmers to abandon their tiny plots and go to the cities, sharply adding to the ranks of the unemployed.

By official count, Liaoning has 400,000 urban residents "waiting for work," 180,000 redundant workers receiving half pay from their employers and two million jobless peasants.

The new job agency aims to match able Chinese workers with foreign companies overseas.

"To relieve employment pressure in the province, the agency will be able to provide up-to-date information on the labour market, both for foreign employers and for Chinese job-hunters," Xinhua said.

Joblessness in China, already rising as the socialist lifetime-

employment system is dismantled, will surge as Peking puts the brakes on its overheating economy, the China Daily reported Wednesday.

A crackdown ordered last month on speculative real estate deals and loose credit would hit China's roaring construction and manufacturing industries, throwing unknown numbers of labourers out of work, the newspaper said.

Authorities expect the official unemployment rate to swell beyond the current 2.3 per cent and have pledged new efforts to create jobs in the second half of 1993.

The number of Chinese officially "waiting for work" reached 3.6 million at the end of June, a 9.1 per cent increase over the same date in 1992, official statistics show.

The number of urban jobs in China is shrinking, standing at 146.8 million at the end of June, down 1.14 million, or 0.7 per cent, from December.

Pakistan interim premier vows to boost battered economy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi vowed Saturday to revive an economy battered by months of political upheaval by collecting taxes and restoring integrity in a system rife with corruption.

Mr. Qureshi, who took office on July 18 after president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and prime minister Nawaz Sharif resigned together to end a paralysing power struggle, said his first priority would be to hold free and impartial elections on Oct. 6.

He invited international observers to watch the polls, the third in five years.

However, restoration of confidence in an economy badly buffeted by the political crisis would be a major task, the former World Bank vice-president told his first news conference.

"No doubt in recent months political uncertainty and tension have affected unfavourably the economic situation in Pakistan," Mr. Qureshi said. "There are

serious problems."

Since the joint resignations Pakistan has seen a resurgence of confidence, he said, adding that several economic indicators had shown significant improvement.

Foreign exchange reserves have risen substantially and the stock market has soared, he said.

The Karachi Stock Exchange rose 188.69 points, or 15.16 per cent, to 1,432.57 in an 11-day bull session before profit-taking in the last two days lowered it to 1,374.18. Mr. Qureshi declined to give the amount of the reserves, which stood at \$346 million, enough to cover 10 days of imports, on July 24.

"I am confident we will establish some clear directions in terms of economic policies," he said, citing the need to curb expenditure and restore discipline after six months of neglect.

He praised the policies of his predecessors to deregulate and open up the economy, raise domestic investment and establish an infrastructure.

He said the major problems confronting his government were to reestablish discipline and integrity in both public and private sectors.

"There has to be a sense of civil commitment to meet our obligations that is frequently lacking in Pakistan," he said.

Only about one million of Pakistan's 120 million people pay taxes and corruption is rampant throughout government, bureaucracy and business, diplomats and economists say.

Mr. Qureshi forecast steps by his caretaker administration to improve inflow of foreign investment, remove restrictions on trade and invisible payments and to impose stringent financial discipline while raising tax revenue to cut the fiscal deficit.

He said he was confident Pakistan would obtain funds from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) after meetings with officials in Washington this week.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 2, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Aquarius is preceded by the Moon trine Jupiter making it a good day to browse around old curio shops, take advantage of bargains in large department stores, bookstores, etc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Good conditions at work with a tendency to be a bit over-enthusiastic. As you would like to have them for something to come and in the evening avoid expenses for pleasures that are costly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can start the week right by getting into that correspondence awaiting your attention, get it behind you tonight, use much care on the highway.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get quickly into solving and settling whatever material problems face you as you have good common sense today but tonight take no chances at home.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are very much preoccupied and rightly so with getting yourself in the pink of condition while tonight avoid any risk in money matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can see ways to make a campaign of action to gain your most desired private wishes so make decisions tonight don't try to impress anyone else.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what you can do

to delight any friends who have been loyal and steadfast to you and may be ready tonight not try to yowl your loved one.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A very good day to get right into the various vocational and creative activities claiming your attention while later, don't try to gain personal pleasures.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New ideas and activities are very good for you today to seek them out and encourage them while tonight don't get involved in public undertakings.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind about successful emotional outlets with mate are fine to pursue during the day but tonight avoid making new contacts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind of a partnership or association matter should be pushed to successful daytime conclusion, then tonight avoid the practical.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can get so much that is well worthwhile today that not a moment should be wasted to fall speed ahead, tonight do get in public interests.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a wonderful day for whatever concerns your love relationship and dealing with close companions while tonight steer clear of dreary duties.

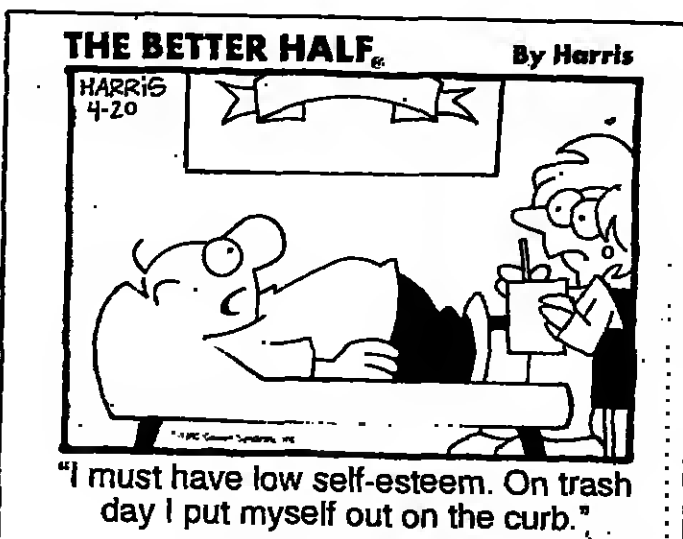
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berbrich



World News

Bosnia's Muslim gunmen ignore truce; U.S. prepares strike plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslim fighters were accused of pressing on with their offensive in central Bosnia Sunday, ignoring efforts to negotiate an end to the three-sided war.

In Geneva, Bosnia's rebel Serbs, who hold some 70 per cent of the country, came under pressure to cede large tracts of land to Muslims as part of an accord to end the war.

Diplomats said international mediators were pushing Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to agree that isolated Muslim-held areas in eastern Bosnia should form part of a Muslim republic and be linked to it by a land corridor.

Croatian radio meanwhile said Bosnian Croat forces had reported 11 people killed and 22 wounded in attacks by their Muslim foes since the latest ceasefire was supposed to have taken hold two days ago.

The radio reported continued fighting around the town of Gornji Vakuf, which is divided between Muslims and Croats, and in nearby villages.

It confirmed reports that Muslim soldiers had Saturday captured two villages close to the town in fierce fighting.

A U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, Barry Fewer, said the Muslims had started the Gornji Vakuf fighting and the Croat forces only began shelling after they had given a warning they would do so if the Muslims push

did not stop.

By the small hours of Sunday morning fighting had subsided, Major Fewer said, adding: "Whether they hold (fire) it's still too soon to tell."

Muslims in central Bosnia are surrounded by Serb and Croat forces. They have tried to expand their territory despite the truce agreed by rival politicians meeting in Geneva and seeking a negotiated end to the 16-month-old war.

Senior officers of Bosnia's warring armies began talks Sunday on how to monitor and consolidate a ceasefire, Maj. Fewer said.

He told reporters the talks at Sarajevo's U.N.-controlled airport, where the commanders of the Bosnian Serb, Croat and Muslim-led government armies signed the truce Friday, had begun at 12.10 a.m. (1010 GMT).

The ceasefire was signed on the orders of the political leaders of the three sides who are in Geneva trying to work out a settlement that would end Bosnia's 16-month-old civil war.

It includes provisions for daily meetings, starting Sunday, of authorised representatives to discuss ceasefire violations and other matters.

"This meeting today will be to discuss the monitoring process, the plans for prisoner exchanges and body exchanges and any other issues," Maj. Fewer said.

"It is hoped that we will be meeting with them with regularity to continue the process to keep the battlefields stable and calm in the hope that it really will be an ultimate cessation of combat activities," he said.

Serb gunmen were reported to be shelling the Igman and Bjelasnica Mountains just outside Sarajevo.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said government forces had come under attack Saturday in the area around Breko, in northern Bosnia, where they are battling the Serbs for control of a vital supply route.

The radio said Serb and Croat forces were attacking government positions in the town of Maglaj, north of Sarajevo.

In Croatia, government forces and Serbs in the breakaway Krajina enclave appeared for the moment to have pulled back from a confrontation over a key road bridge on the Adriatic coast.

The Serbs had threatened to shell the Maslenica Bridge if Croatian forces did not honour an agreement to withdraw and hand the area over to U.N. troops by midnight Saturday.

A senior Serb officer, Brigadier Borislav Djukic, said the bridge had not been shelled because the Serbs understood the Croatian forces had finally been ordered to pull back.

"We are going to show the maximum patience and restraint," he said in Knin, the main Krajina Serb stronghold.

The Washington Post said U.S. President Bill Clinton was meanwhile reported to be stepping up pressure on the Serbs with a plan to launch strikes at their forces around Sarajevo.

The United States will bring a proposal for military intervention in Bosnia to a NATO meeting Monday in Brussels, the Post said.

The Post quoted an unnamed senior defence official as saying that the plan was to strike at Serb forces around Sarajevo that are "either shelling the city or contributing to the general strangulation of the city."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defence Secretary Les Aspin, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell were present at the meeting, the paper said.

The administration's plan goes beyond previous U.S. commitments to the U.N. and is likely to require deployment of additional U.S. military forces to the region, according to unnamed officials quoted in the report.

"We'll have to see what the Serbian reaction will be to our initial steps," one senior official told the paper. "If the Serbians just hunker down, we'll have to do more. And if we have to do more, we'll need more assets. If we have to deploy one, two or three more squadrons in there, I wouldn't be surprised."

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30 blacks massacred as Zulus go on rampage

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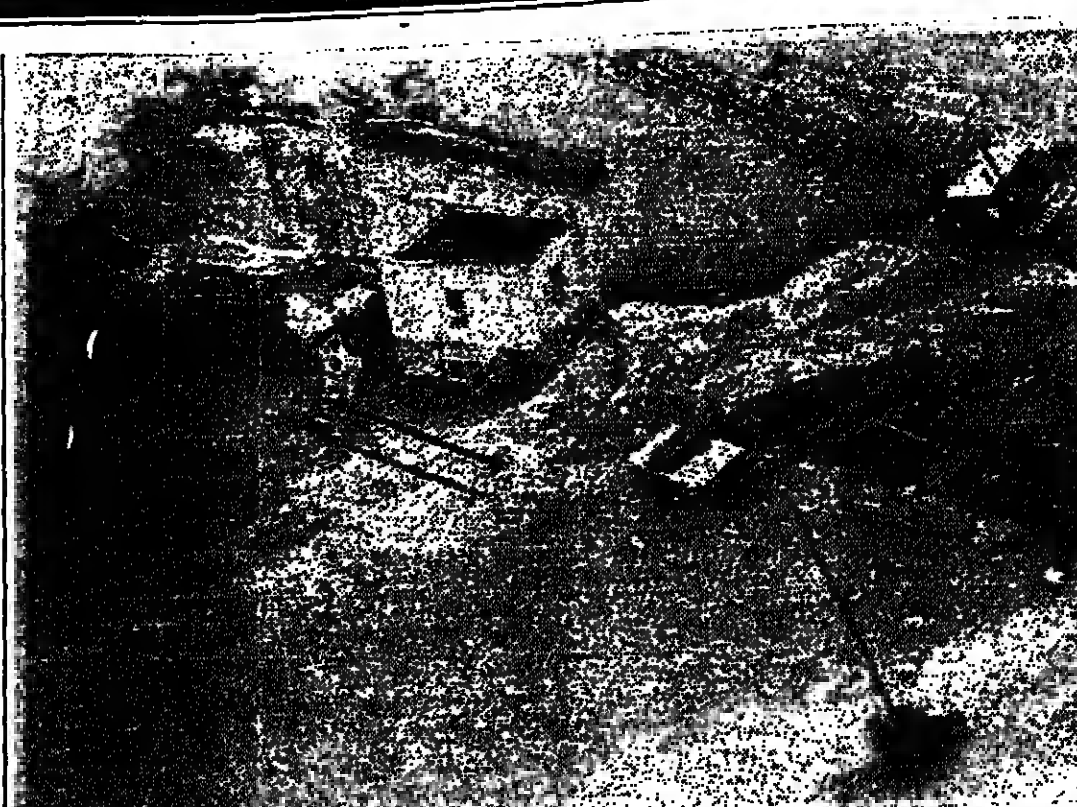
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Water from a break in one of the levees in Chesterfield gushes past a crane and bends a utility pole onto surrounding farmland (AFP photo)

River rises, levee bursts near St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The high water everyone here had dreaded began living up to its ominous billing after floodwaters gushed through a breached levee, overrunning a suburban airport and hundreds of businesses.

This, St. Louis residents feared, could be just the beginning.

Rivers still had not reached their peaks, and forecasters said weekend thunderstorms could dump as much as 3 inches (8 centimetres) of rain on parts of the area, straining more tattered levees.

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grew to a staggering 75 feet (23 metres).

Business owners who had been frantically piling sandbags soon shifted their efforts to frantically pumping water.

By morning, under gray, thundercloud-filled skies, Spirit of St. Louis Airport sat under as much as 11 feet of water, along with dozens of small farms and some 490 restaurants, stores and light industrial plants.

Firefighters manœuvred their boats through the perilous, debris-laden floodwaters to reach weary people who had sought refuge on rooftops. Other people were plucked to safety by helicopters. In all, 25 to 30 people were rescued.

The rest got out before the waters were too high. No serious injuries were reported, but the financial losses will be staggering.

Brett Affholder helped his father, Bob, move tractors and heavy equipment out of their family business, a sewer rehabilitation company. The waters rose and the pair eventually had to take to the roof, where they were rescued by a Fire Department boat.

"I was just trying to save what my father worked for all his life," said Brett Affholder. "That's all I was trying to do."

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Remains of what maybe Genghis Khan's palace found

PEKING (AP) — Archaeologists in northern China have found the remains of what may be the palace where the great Mongol leader Genghis Khan died, an official report said Sunday.

The discovery in the Ningxia Autonomous Region, just south of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has been dated back to at least the Yuan dynasty, the Mongolian dynasty established by Genghis Khan's grandson, in 1271, the Guangming Daily said.

Archaeologists have unearthed large numbers of glazed porcelain ware at the site, including vases, bottles, bowls and dishes, as well as ceremonial bronzes, it said.

The site also has yielded building construction materials such as waterproof tiles and tiles used as window shutters, the report said.

The variety of the findings as well as the large number of yellow-glazed tiles suggest that the structure was a high-ranking, the newspaper said. In imperial times, only the emperor and his family could use the colour yellow. Historical records show that Genghis Khan, who conquered China and most of Central Asia, had a palace near Ningxia's Lipuan Mountain, where he went to escape the summer heat. The accounts say he died in July 1227, eight days after becoming ill while overseeing military strategy sessions in the Lipuan.

SINGAPORE (AP) — Members of Singapore's armed forces have been put on notice as of Sunday. Anyone caught smoking in public while in uniform will be fined.

With the end of a three-month grace period, military policemen have orders to crack down, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said. Violators will have 50 Singapore dollars (\$31) deducted from their pay and repeat offenders will be fined 100 dollars (\$62). Smoking breaks have been abolished and lighting up on military bases is restricted to a few designated areas. It is not the first time the armed forces have been used to spearhead the drive to stamp out smoking. The cigars after formal dinners in the officers' mess, a tradition dating back to British colonial days, were extinguished last year. Some units now pass around chocolate mints instead of the port and cigars, the spokesman said. About three of every 10 servicemen and women smoke and 93 per cent of them picked up the habit before enlistment. This island republic of three million people is striving to become the world's first smoke-free nation.

Chinese scientists produce insulin artificially

PEKING (AFP) — Chinese scientists have succeeded in obtaining insulin through genetic engineering. Xinhua News Agency said Sunday. Scientists have long sought an artificial method of creating insulin, used to treat diabetes, the agency said, because supplies from the traditional source — the pancreases of pigs and cattle — were limited.

The insulin developed by scientists at the Shanghai Biochemical Institute, under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, is also 50 per cent cheaper than the substance extracted from animals, it said. The United States and Denmark are the only other countries to have succeeded in making insulin through genetic engineering, Xinhua quoted scientists as saying.

Prison set alight in riot by

Sports

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil beat United States in beach volleyball

HONG KONG (AP) — Brazil came from behind to beat defending champion United States 14-12, 12-3, 15-7 Sunday in the San Miguel beach volleyball series. The Brazilians, who also won the first two legs of the tournament in the Philippines and Malaysia, collected U.S. \$10,000 in prize money. Indonesia defeated Japan 12-9, 12-4 to finish in third place. The final leg of the tournament will be played in Taiwan next week.

Koch wins second gold for Germany

SHEFFIELD (R) — Simona Koch overcame the challenge of two Russians to win the women's one-metre springboard final Sunday and give Germany their second diving title of the European Swimming Championships. Koch emulated fellow-German Peter Boehler, men's one-metre winner Saturday, by capturing the gold but it was a much closer contest. She trailed former champion Irina Lashko by just under two points going into the fifth and last series in the final but overhauled her Russian rival to win by a narrow 2.7 points.

Tottenham win first home game under Ardiles

LONDON (R) — Ossie Ardiles' Tottenham Hotspur warmed up for the English Premier League with an exciting 3-2 win over former Spurs star Paul Gascoigne's Lazio in a pre-season four-team tournament Saturday. Tottenham will meet fellow London side Chelsea, now managed by another ex-Spurs hero Glenn Hoddle, in the final of the Annual Makita Tournament. Chelsea reached the final with a 4-2 win on penalties after a 1-1 draw against Ajax Amsterdam, who face Lazio for third place. Keeper Kevin Hitchcock saved two Ajax penalties. The Premier League, in which both Ardiles and Hoddle will be making their debuts as managers, kicks off in two weeks time.

Antiers beat Grampus in penalty shootout

TOKYO (AP) — The first stage champion Kashima Antlers beat the Nagoya Grampus eight 5-3 in a penalty shootout after battling a 1-1 tie in a regulation and two extra periods Saturday in the Japanese Professional Soccer League's second stage. Taro Goro scored the Grampus' first goal 24 minutes into the first half. Just 10 minutes later, Santos made an equaliser as the two teams ended the 90-minute regulation period a 1-1 tie. Then the two teams battled a scoreless tie in two extra periods in heavy rain and water holes at Kashima, northeast of Tokyo. Playing before nearly 28,000 spectators at Hakata, in southern Japan, Nobuhiko Takeda and Kazuyoshi Miura scored one goal each in the second half as the Verdys Kawasaki blanked the Gamba Osaka 2-0. German striker Pierre Littbarski netted a goal in the 16th minute of the second half, powering the JEF United Ichihara to a 3-2 triumph over the Yokohama Flügels at Yokohama, outside Tokyo.

Ashford wins 100-metres in retirement race

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — American Evelyn Ashford, the gold medalist in the women's 100 metres in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, won that race Sunday in 11.55 seconds in a "retirement race" in the Chubu Nambu commemorative track and field meet. Ashford won in Los Angeles with a time of 10.76 seconds. The 36-year-old Ashford, a leading sprinter for 15 years, has said she will retire from active competition.

Skah sets world best in 2 miles

HECHTEL, Belgium (AP) — Olympic 10,000-metre champion Khalid Skah of Morocco set a world best at the rarely contested distance of 2 miles (3,219 metres) Saturday, edging the mark of compatriot Said Aouita. Skah completed the race in eight minutes, 12.17 seconds, beating the previous best set by Aouita of 8:13.45 on May 28, 1987 in Turin, Italy.

U.S. defeat France in U-22 basketball championship

VALLADOLID, Spain (AP) — Wesley Person scored 14 points as the United States rallied from an early six-point deficit to beat France 87-73 Saturday and win the inaugural FIBA under-22 World Basketball Championship. France, paced by 21 points from Yance Bonato, led 11-5 after nine minutes but the United States went on a 38-15 run to take a 43-26 halftime lead. France played more aggressively in the second half, but was out-rebounded at both ends of the court and never drew within 10 points. In other games Saturday, Brazil edged Italy 79-76 to take the bronze medal, while Greece got by Argentina 83-81 for fifth place and Spain defeated Australia 89-76 for seventh.

Portsmouth striker is Villa target

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Guy Whittingham, the English League's leading scorer last season with 47 goals for First Division Portsmouth, is wanted by Premier League Aston Villa. Villa manager Ron Atkinson, looking for cover for Sean Saunders and Dailao Atkinson, has inquired about the former soldier, but would not confirm reports that he had agreed a 1.3 million-pound deal with Pompey boss Jim Smith.

Mayor gives Tapie an alibi

PARIS (AP) — A French mayor confirmed Saturday that he has provided Olympique Marseille owner Bernard Tapie with an alibi against allegations that he tried to cover up a match-fixing scandal. A scale manufacturer, Testut, owned by Tapie, is one of the largest employers in the northern town of Bethune, 215 kilometres north of Paris, where Jacques Mellick is mayor.

Mellick emerged as a surprise witness in the scandal Friday, telling investigators that he met with Tapie during a crucial 90 minutes June 17. Boro Primorac, former coach of the rival club Valenciennes, has said that Tapie tried to persuade him during the same time to take the fall for the scandal. In a news conference Saturday, Mellick said that he saw Primorac nowhere in Tapie's Paris headquarters during the time in question.

The Primorac case is a second front in the main scandal, where Marseille's former general manager and a player are charged with trying to bribe three Valenciennes players to throw a May 20 league match. Marseille allegedly hoped to save energy for the European Champions Cup final against AC Milan six days later. Tapie's squad won both matches.

Primorac, fired after his club was demoted to the second division, has told investigators that Tapie offered him money and career opportunities to take the blame for the bribery affair. Tapie says the meeting never took place. But despite numerous public statements on the scandal, Tapie had failed to say what he was doing the afternoon of June 17.

Canada beat Australia in World Cup qualifier

EDMONTON (AFP) — Canada were unlucky Saturday not to have won by a bigger margin but, as the play went, were relieved to beat Australia 2-1 in the first leg of a two-match World Cup qualifier.

Australia's away goal will count as double if the combined two-match score is equal at the end of the August 15 second leg in Australia. The overall winner will face yet another play off — against a team still to qualify from South America — before its players begin booking their trips to the United States for next year's World Cup. The Aussies got off to an early disadvantage Saturday as goalkeeper Robert Zabica was sent off in the 16th minute of the first half for a particularly violent tackle on Vancouver's Dale Mitchell just outside the penalty box.

Lewis licking wounds after defeat to Christie

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — After losing to Olympic champion Linford Christie, Carl Lewis doesn't want to face his coach. But Christie now can't wait to meet one of his critics, Andre Cason, when the two race at next month's World Championships.

In a long-awaited showdown between the Olympic and world champions, Lewis and Christie met for the first time in two years Friday and shared \$300,000 in appearance money.

Christie raced to victory in 10.08 seconds and Lewis wound up third in 10.22 behind countryman Jon Drummond, who had 10.12. Lewis said he wasn't especially bothered about losing to Christie. It was the way he lost.

"My coach, Tom Tellez, is coming over here next week and I don't really want to face him after this," said Lewis, who plans to race next in Zurich Wednesday.

"I just didn't do anything out of the blocks. I didn't slip, but, at the same time, I didn't do what I wanted to do."

Three weeks before he defends his world 100 metre title at Stuttgart, Germany, Lewis produced a performance he would rather forget.

He was slow out of the blocks and never found that familiar mid-race surge that sometimes get him out of trouble. While Christie chased after fast-starter Drummond, Lewis was left trailing.

"The most important thing for me is knowing how I can run in Stuttgart, where I expect to run at my best," Lewis said.

Victory was a sweet moment for Christie, who won the Olympic title in the absence of Lewis in Barcelona last year. It upheld his belief that he would have beaten Lewis anyway.

But he stressed that Friday's race at the Gateshead International Stadium was just a stepping stone to Stuttgart. That's the event that matters, he said, and it will also be a chance to sort out some business with Cason.

Pernfors lands in finals of Canadian Open

MONTREAL (Agencies) — Mikael Pernfors landed in the final of the \$1.65 million Canadian Open tennis tournament and couldn't hide his surprise. "I never thought it would happen again," said Pernfors, who downed a tired Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 in the semifinals Saturday at Jarry Stadium.

The victory put Pernfors, a former top-10 player on an injury comeback, in position to win a tournament for the first time since 1988, when he won in Scottsdale, Arizona.

"I thought if I played really well I'd go two or three rounds and if I came up against a really good player, I'd lose," said Pernfors, 30, of Sweden.

In the final, Pernfors will face 13th-seeded Todd Martin, who dethroned unseeded fellow American Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-4 for the \$235,000 top prize.

Pernfors, who will pass the \$1 million mark in career earnings this week, missed about two years of play and underwent Achilles tendon surgery in 1990. His world ranking dropped to 1,001 in 1991 before he began his comeback.

He rose to No. 95 going into the Canadian Open, giving him direct entry into the field for the first time this year. He is the lowest ranked player ever to reach the Canadian Open final.

In a doubles semifinal, Jim Courier of the United States and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas ousted Grant Connell of Vancouver and Patrick Galbraith of the United States 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (8-6).

In the other semifinal, Glenn Michibata and David Pate, the sixth seeds, downed the top-seeded duo of Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-2.

Pernfors did not drop a set in his first five matches, which included upsets of second-seeded Jim Courier and eighth-seeded Alexander Volkov.

"I don't know if you can call it luck because it happened three days in a row, but I just seem to be able to make these guys make mistakes," Pernfors said.

Pernfors runs down every ball, mixing lobs and drops with consistent ground strokes in a baseline game. As he did against Courier and Volkov, Pernfors kept returning the ball and waited for Korda to make 55 unforced errors, mainly ground strokes into the net.

"My legs were heavy — I was a step slower today," said Korda, 25, a Canadian open finalist in 1991. "He didn't win the match, he played well and let me beat myself."

Martin, 22, has jumped to No. 20 in the world and is considered one of the game's best young prospects.

He had an even more impressive run to the final, downing third-seeded Boris Becker in the third round and Andre Agassi in the quarterfinals.

He recorded his first tournament victory at a clay court event at Coral Springs, Florida, in May, reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals and made the final of a tournament a week ago in Washington.

"I feel good mentally and physically, so that's a good sign," said Martin, who beat Pernfors in both of their previous meetings, including one last April in Charlotte, N.C. "I'm anxious. It's exciting for me to be in the situation I'm in."

Reinstadler questions defeat

In Stratton Mountain, Vermont, Austria's Beate Reinstadler was anguished after questionable line calls killed her upset bid Saturday at the U.S. Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Fifth-seed Zina Garrison Jackson defeated Reinstadler 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, to earn a place in Sunday's final against top seed Conchita Martinez, who eliminated Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 6-1, 6-2.

Reinstadler, rated 162nd in the world, was ahead 4-2 in the second set and had two break points before losing the seventh game. On one break point, a Garrison Jackson forehand appeared to go out but was called good. After the loss, Reinstadler called the match the worst-officiated she had seen this year.

"I'm really upset," she said. "I should have won that match. The line calls were bad. It should have been 5-2."

"Maybe it's America," she added.

Garrison Jackson agreed she had help from dubious calls.

"The line calls were pretty mixed up on both sides," the U.S. player said. "I got some critical ones at key times."

Reinstadler had earlier upset seventh seed Lisa Raymond and third seed Helena Sukova.

Garrison Jackson has lost all four previous matches against Martinez, who lost just one service point in the first set and won in 63 minutes.

"I was feeling very confident," Martinez said. "I was really into the match."

Grossman, Harvey-Wild in semifinals wins

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ann Grossman and Linda Harvey-Wild posted semifinal victories Saturday at the \$150,000 Puerto Rico Open, setting up an all-American final.

Grossman, the second seed, outlasted fellow American Debbie Graham, 6-4, 7-5. Harvey-Wild had to come back from a 3-1 deficit in the first set to post a 6-3, 6-3 victory over fourth-seeded Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico.

Grossman, who will be playing in her third final of the year, relied on consistent groundstrokes to get past the third-seeded, hard-serving Graham.

Harvey-Wild, meanwhile, fell behind 3-1 against Gavaldon, but reacted well as Gavaldon's groundstrokes suddenly became erratic to win five straight games and take the opening set at 6-3.

Grossman was a finalist at the Malaysian women's Open at Kuala Lumpur and at the Indonesia Women's Open held in Jakarta.

Harvey-Wild, ranked 88th, will be played her first final of the year. She was a semifinalist at the Victorian Women's Open, held in January in Melbourne, Australia.

In the doubles final, Garrison and Grossman teamed up to upset the top-seeded pair of Gigi Fernandez, the only Puerto Rican player on the women's tour, and Australia's Renee Stubbs in a hard-fought 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 victory.

Fernandez, the top-ranked doubles player in the world, has won nine Grand Slam doubles events, but has never won the only Grand Slam title in her home town.

Gustafsson, Costa in Dutch Open final

In Hilversum, Netherlands, Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden and Carlos Costa of Spain both had to win twice Saturday to reach the final of the Dutch Open clay court tennis championships.

Gustafsson began the day with a tough 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Spaniard Francisco Clavet.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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THE RIGHT PLAYER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K J
♣ A Q J 7 6 4 3

WEST EAST
♠ A Q 8 6 3
♥ 9 7
♦ A 10 6 5 3
♣ 10 9

SOUTH
♠ K 10 7 2
♥ A K J 2
♦ Q 8 7
♣ 8 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 NT
Pass 2 NT Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
There are many situations that are a columnist's delight, and they keep recurring at the table. All you have to do is recognize the theme and, on occasion, have the fortitude to make the necessary play.

Note South's decision to open one heart in fourth seat on a hand containing two four-card majors. That

is one way of making sure a 4-4 major-suit fit will not be missed, as well as direct a lead if the pair is outbid. South's two-no-trump rebid denied extra values, and three no trump was a reasonable contract.

West led a low diamond, and dummy's jack won the trick. Declarer came to hand with the king of hearts and led a club to the jack. Now it becomes a matter of whether or not East is capable of mettle above and beyond the call of duty.

Bridge is not a game for the pusillanimous. If East wins the king of clubs, declarer will have nine tricks no matter what the defenders do — should East shift to a spade, declarer simply covers any card East leads.

To give the defense a chance, East must duck the jack of clubs — and do so smoothly! True, that will cost a trick if declarer divines the position and continues with the ace of clubs. However, the odds favor a 3-1 club division, so South is more likely to return to hand to repeat the club finesse. When that loses, dummy's clubs are left to wither on the vine, and at least a two-trick set is a near certainty.

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play (Arabic)
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PHILADELPHIA

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Weakened Iraq emboldens Israel, Saddam asserts

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein said in published remarks on Sunday that Israel would not have attacked Lebanon if the U.N. had not cut back Iraq's military might under the Gulf war ceasefire.

"Had Iraq not been engaged, would Israel have been able to attack Lebanon?" the Iraqi president asked in remarks carried by Baghdad newspapers. "The answer is no," he said.

President Saddam said one reason for the attack on Iraq by U.S.-led Gulf war allies in 1991 after Baghdad's occupation of Kuwait was to make Arab countries a theatre for Israeli attacks.

"This is the reason of the aggression that took place against Iraq in 1991 and is still continuing (in the form) of sanctions," he said.

Under the ceasefire terms after the Gulf war, Baghdad must rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction as well as means to produce such weapons systems. The U.N. must also make sure that such weapons will not be resurrected in Iraq.

President Saddam made his public denunciation of Israel in a speech to tribal chieftains from the southern Iraqi province of Babylon who called on him Saturday to express allegiance.

He called the seven-day Israeli bombardment of Lebanon "barbaric, blind, striking land and life indiscriminately."

"It is a free-rein aggression," he said.

"Don't you remember the size Israel dwindled to during the 30-state aggression (Gulf war)," President Saddam said.

"Israel is displaying the courage of a lion against Lebanon, because there is no one left to tell it do not commit aggression against the Arabs."

Babel, a newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son, struck a similar tone.

"It (Israel) would have had a thousand apprehensions about an Iraqi reaction (before) launching any aggression against an Arab country," the newspaper said in an editorial.

President Saddam warned in 1990 to burn half of Israel with chemical weapons if it attacked Iraq.

During the 1991 Gulf war Iraq unleashed salvos of missiles

against Israel.

"Saddam's missiles were letters of warning and chastisement to the Zionist entity," Babel said. "When Iraq was not under sanctions, Israel was reduced to the size of a gnat."

Babel warned that Israel cannot "hide under the dirty American coat" for ever.

Progress on cameras

Installation of monitoring cameras at Iraqi missile sites, an issue which brought Baghdad and the United Nations to the verge of confrontation, is going well, a U.N. weapons expert said.

"We had an excellent day. Really good day. Good cooperation," Bill Eckert told reporters after his fifth day in the field.

Mr. Eckert and two other foreign experts arrived in Baghdad last Sunday to install surveillance cameras at two missile sites where the U.N. wanted to guard against prohibited activity.

The sites, Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah, rest missiles with ranges permitted by the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire under which the experts are destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. Navy spokesman in the Gulf denied on Saturday that U.S. naval pilots had made an error of judgement in attacking two missile sites in southern Iraq this week.

The crews of the two warplanes involved in the attack on Thursday "determined that they had been illuminated by a radar associated with the missile site," said Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole.

"They consider that they took the appropriate step within the rules of the engagement," he said.

The statement followed reports that the pilots had confused ordinary radar with radar used with guided surface-to-air missiles to lock on targets.

In Washington, a senior Pentagon official who declined to be identified, on Thursday evening confirmed a New York Times report that the pilots had made an error of judgement when they attacked the missile sites.

directly in charge of guiding the Palestinian negotiators with Israel.

But, he said, "this committee includes only those members who extend total support for the talks in the way the negotiations are proceeding."

"Everyone who speaks up against the peace process and Arafat's policies is eased out of all significant positions in the PLO leadership," he added.

Mr. Hourani said the Executive Committee does not know of the financial status of the PLO except that funds are no longer available.

The PLO is facing severe financial problems after the oil-rich Gulf states stopped their generous contributions in retaliation for Mr. Arafat's support for Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

It is generally believed that Mr. Arafat, who retains total control of all PLO funds, has been withdrawing from PLO holdings abroad to finance the organisation's activities.

Senior PLO officials, mostly speaking in private, have repeatedly accused Mr. Arafat of keeping them in the dark about the funds.

The dispute has surfaced several times in closed meetings of the PLO Executive Committee as well as the leadership of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction and Mr. Arafat's power-base in the PLO, according to reports from Tunis.

Mr. Arafat recently ordered the closure of several PLO missions abroad and cut down assistance to the families of Palestinians killed or wounded while resisting the Israeli occupation.

Al-Fajr, an Arabic-language PLO-funded daily based in Arab east Jerusalem, was the latest reported casualty in the organisation's financial crunch.

"We do not really know anything about the PLO's financial status," said Mr. Hourani. "We can only guess what is happening."

He warned that "if the present state of affairs continues and the peace process goes ahead in its present direction, then a catastrophe will occur and this is going to befall the PLO."



A Lebanese family Sunday in a pickup truck seven days of Israeli bombardment (AFP photo)

Israeli court considers new Demjanjuk war crimes trial

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israel's supreme court agreed Sunday to review demands to try John Demjanjuk again for war crimes, three days after he was acquitted of being the Treblinka guard operator "Ivan the Terrible."

The court would examine in the next 10 days petitions by survivors of the camp to put the 73-year-old in the dock for his role as an SS auxiliary guard at other detention sites during World War II.

Demjanjuk, who had been due to be expelled to his native Ukraine Sunday, escaped the gallows Thursday when the court granted him the "benefit of the doubt" after five years on death row.

The supreme court said the former car worker from Ohio in the United States was an "accomplice to the Holocaust" for his role as a guard at Sobibor camp and work in concentration camps at Flossenbürg and Regensburg.

But it had not been proved "beyond reasonable doubt" that he was at Treblinka.

The prosecution charges had focused on "Ivan the Terrible," the sadistic killer of Treblinka in Poland, and the defence had sought to counter that rather than his alleged role at Sobibor.

Six Treblinka survivors and the Kach Jewish extremist group have brought petitions to have Demjanjuk re-tried.

Presiding Judge Shlomo Levin Sunday granted a request by government prosecutors for time to answer the challenge.

"The discussion will resume in 10 days. In seven days the attorney general will submit his arguments, and he won't be deported

until then," Judge Levin said.

Demjanjuk and his lawyer Yoram Sheftel did not attend the hearing but Mr. Sheftel told army radio: "After I see the decision, study it and analyse it, I will decide on my response."

The court Thursday said Demjanjuk never had a chance to defend himself on any offences other than Treblinka and it would be unreasonable to start new proceedings now.

Bot on Sunday, Judge Gabriel Bach said: "The court ruling does not exempt the state prosecutor's office from taking time to reconsider whether opening a new investigation on Sobibor or gathering new Sobibor evidence is indicated."

Demjanjuk, who remains in a solitary confinement cell in Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv, insists he was never a guard at any death camp.

The other petitioner against his deportation on Sunday was Yisrael Yehzekeli, 75, whose family was wiped out by the Nazis at Sobibor. Israel jailed him for two years after he threw acid in Sheftel's face, injuring the lawyer's eye, in 1988.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Nazi-hunting Wiesenthal Centre in occupied Jerusalem, welcomed the court's latest decision.

"This decision is, I think, a very small consolation to the... millions of Israelis who were so located that a man clearly acknowledged to be a Nazi war criminal by the Israeli courts was let go."

"I only hope that it will also result in his prosecution for those crimes," Zuroff said.

Family members were told of the decision by police as they were checking their suitcases

onto a flight to Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

"We are extremely disappointed, this torture has got to stop," said Ed Nishnic, Demjanjuk's son-in-law. He said after 16 years of court appearances in the U.S. and Israel the family was at the end of their financial resources and had answered all the charges.

"They are slowly killing an American family," he said.

Nishnic did not know if Demjanjuk had been told of the new ruling and said the American government should intervene.

Israel has a multi-tiered supreme court. The three-judge panel that issued the new ruling was a different, lower body than the five-judge bench that ruled on Thursday.

Attorney Sheftel said Demjanjuk was extradited from the United States to stand trial for crimes committed at Treblinka.

"So the court has no jurisdiction to try him... on whether Demjanjuk committed crimes in places other than Treblinka," he said.

Sheftel also said Demjanjuk has denied serving in Sobibor camp, also in Poland.

Noam Federman argued in court Sunday that despite Demjanjuk's acquittal as "Ivan the Terrible," the court found that he was a guard. The court called him a "witness" and in German in spoken.

The court also found unequivocally that John Demjanjuk was a guard, that he assisted in the extermination... Jews... he's not from Treblinka, so he's Ivan from Sobibor," Federman told the court.

Christopher due in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

brief war "opened the road to peace" more quickly than the 10 rounds of talks held in Washington.

Mr. Christopher's talks in Egypt will centre on narrowing Israeli-Palestinian differences on a declaration of principles concerning Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The United States, with Russia sponsor of the peace talks, has offered proposals to bridge the gap in past negotiating rounds, but the Palestinians have rejected them.

Egypt, serving as intermediary between Washington and the Palestine Liberation Organisation because of U.S. refusal to talk to the PLO directly, is expected to transmit new Palestinian "ideas" on the declaration of principles.

Mr. Christopher is due to spend Monday night in Cairo and then travel to Israel before making stops in Syria and Jordan.

Mr. Christopher has been at pains to dampen hopes for his visit. Before setting out on July 22 on a tour that was to end in the Middle East after stops in Asia and Australia, Mr. Christopher told reporters not to expect too much.

His Pacific tour was cut short because of the flareup in the Middle East and continuing violence in the former Yugoslavia, where an uneasy ceasefire was negotiated on Friday.

On the domestic front, U.S. President Bill Clinton was battling to get his deficit-cutting budget through Congress.

This combination of events may not portend great things for peace in the Middle East, but at least they are not unusual — Mr. Christopher's predecessor James Baker's visits to the region were often preceded by violence.

While there is no official deadline for progress on the Middle East front, Washington officials have said that 1993 must be a "year of breakthrough."

Lebanon victims blame Israel not Hizbollah

SIDON (R) — Lebanese civilians, counting the cost of Israel's week-long blitz on their homes in the south, said Sunday they were innocent victims with no control over guerrillas who fire rockets at the Jewish state.

But most blamed Israel for the firestorm and said that they supported the right of pro-Israeli Hizbollah (Party of God) or other guerrilla groups to attack Israeli forces occupying the southern tip of their country.

Lying in a Sidon hospital bed with his chest sliced open by shrapnel from an Israeli missile, 30-year-old farmer Hassan Jezini said: "I am an innocent victim of this violence."

He said he was hit though he had absolutely nothing to do with attacks on Israel. "Planes raided while I was at home and it is far from the (guerrilla) offices. When the missile hit I thought it was doomsday. I am neither with Israel nor a Hizbollah guerrilla."

The aerial and artillery onslaught, Israel's biggest military operation in Lebanon since its 1982 invasion and its most devastating attack on the south ever, killed 130 people, wounded more than 525 and forced 250,000 to flee their homes. Most of the dead were civilians.

Mr. Jezini, asked if he would return to his village in Iqlim Al Toufah, a mountain ridge south-east of Sidon and a Hizbollah stronghold, replied: "Now I have no home to go back to."

Friends pulled him unconscious from the rubble of his home and told him later that it had been flattened by the missile.

Hizbollah, which emerged from Lebanon's poor and largely powerless Shiite community during Israel's 1982 invasion, is the only group the government failed to disarm after the end of Lebanon's civil war in 1990. It says it needs its weapons to fight Israeli troops in the south.

Most refugees interviewed in the port of Sidon said they did not blame Hizbollah and other guerrilla groups for the battering by Israeli planes, helicopters and artillery, which officials said caused damage estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Many said the Israeli barrage only increased their support for Hizbollah resistance against Israel's occupation of a self-styled "security zone" carved out of the south in 1985.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said one aim of "operation accountability" was to flood Beirut with refugees and turn the population against Hizbollah so they pressured the Lebanese gov-

ernment into curbing the guerrilla threat to Israel.

But many refugees, while agreeing their lives were disrupted by the guerrilla attacks and Israeli retaliation, said they understood the resistance had a right to fight to free Lebanon.

"We do not blame the resistance. If there was no resistance, Israel would occupy all of the south," said Siham Zeineddine, who sheltered with her family in a school after fleeing her village on Monday.

Few people said guerrillas should stop their attacks and let Lebanon's government win an Israeli withdrawal at Middle East peace talks.

Ms. Zeineddine, like many, had her doubts about whether the ceasefire would hold. She said her family would not go home until her husband returned on Sunday from visiting their village on the frontline facing the Israeli-held zone.

"I blame Israel. It is the enemy of all the people," said Adila Farhat, 50, from her hospital bed. Stiches ran from her nose up over her forehead. Her left eye was a mess of blood.

"We're used to such barbaric strikes from the Zionist enemy," said Palestinian refugee Jamal Aqel, 30, with wounds to his hip from rocket shrapnel.

"Every war falls hardest on innocent civilians like us," he said. "The Arab regimes gave us no support."

Refugees who had expected a brief strike to avenge the killing of seven Israeli soldiers in the south in July were taken totally by surprise by the enormity of the retribution.

"It was like a volcano erupting," said Mr. Jezini.

Israel stopped attacking on Saturday saying it had "understandings" Hizbollah would stop firing Katyusha rockets at northern Israel. It said it would hit hard against new attacks.

Asked if the Israeli blitz turned people against Hizbollah, blacksmith Sami Webbeh, said: "Yes, I think they (Israel) succeeded in making some people hate Hizbollah."

He condemned the government in Beirut, saying it failed to save civilians from suffering and gave little aid to the people of the south to keep them strong facing the Israeli occupation.

"My house was ruined," he said, nursing a large wound to his hip and legs from an Israeli shell. But he added:

"I blame Israel. It is a tyrant and his civilians."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis free Shiite political prisoners

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has freed around 40 Shiite Muslim political prisoners who had been in jail for at least five years, a Washington-based human rights group said. The International Committee for Human Rights in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula said Saturday the prisoners had been released because of "local and international pressure." It hoped for "the imminent release of other political prisoners" and a trend toward democracy in Saudi political life. The Shiites had been jailed for "opposition political activity" and held in maximum-security prisons in Riyadh and Dammam, in the east of the country, the committee said. The committee also said one of its officials, Issa Ahmad, was detained for 24 hours at Dharhan airport, in the east of the country, on his return to Saudi Arabia from the United States on July 27. Saudi authorities have banned an Islamic human rights group formed in May and arrested three of its founding members.

Kuwait agency denies slaughter of Palestinians

KUWAIT (R) — Twenty Palestinians were sentenced to life imprisonment after Kuwait's liberation for collaborating with Iraqi occupiers but there was no mass slaughter of Palestinians, the Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday. KUNA withdrew an earlier report that 20 Palestinians had been executed for collaboration. It issued a corrected version saying instead that 20 Palestinians had been jailed for life. The figures appeared in a KUNA news feature on strained relations between Kuwaitis and Palestinians during Iraq's occupation and after the 1991 Gulf war that ended it.

French synagogue to be moved to East Jerusalem

STRASBOURG (R) — A 19th century synagogue in a French village is to be dismantled and rebuilt in East Jerusalem, Jewish community officials said on Saturday. The synagogue in Balbronn, a village of 587 residents 30 kilometres from Strasbourg, will be shipped to Pitsag Zeev, a high-rise Jewish neighbourhood sandwiched between Arab villages in East Jerusalem. The Nahal Emet association, a group of Israelis of French origin, has so far raised about a third of the cost of the move, an estimated three million francs (\$500,000) from private donations.

'N. Korea to admit nuclear inspectors'

SEOUL (R) — North Korea will admit inspectors this week from the world's nuclear watchdog, a South Korean newspaper said Sunday. "It was learned that North Korea... has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its intention to let in IAEA inspectors this week," the influential Dong-A Ilbo newspaper quoted a government official as saying. "North Korea's permission for resumption of inspection means that it officially admitted (it was) staying with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," the official was quoted as saying.

Iran seizes 4 tonnes of drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities have seized 4,510 kilograms of various drugs and arrested 56 traffickers over the past month in the eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the official IRNA news agency reported Sunday. The haul included 1,726 kilograms of morphine, 1,124 kilograms of heroin, 1,726 kilograms of opium and 260 kilograms of bishash, it said. More than 60 tonnes of narcotics have been confiscated and over 25,000 traffickers — 1,000 of them foreigners, mostly Afghans — have been arrested in Iran since March 1992. Iran, a transit route for drugs from Afghanistan and Pakistan destined for Europe, has stepped up its anti-drug campaign in recent months.

COLUMN

Khasbulatov refuses to apologise to Thatcher

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov refused to apologise for calling former British Premier Margaret Thatcher an "old bag" after she said parliament should be dissolved to help end Russia's crisis.

As Mr. Khasbulatov opened an extraordinary session of parliament, several deputies urged him from the floor to withdraw the remarks, made in a television interview. "What should I apologise for? I think I have preserved the dignity of our people," the speaker retorted. Mrs. Thatcher, asked by Commonwealth Television last Sunday what she would do first to tackle the chaos wrought by the break-up of the Soviet Union, said she would disband the Russian parliament and call new elections. Mr. Khasbulatov said her comments were humiliating and Russian journalists should have challenged Mrs. Thatcher. "You (the journalists) can humiliate yourselves if you want to," he told the television interviewer. "But don't humiliate your own people, your own politicians, who are not in the slightest bit inferior to the various old bags (babushky) who pay us visits."

Finance Minister Boris Yegorov told Commonwealth Television he deeply regretted the insult. "I would like to apologise on behalf of all Russians to Mrs. Thatcher, who was insulted by our speaker," he said. "I hope Britain and the rest of the world do not think that all of us in Russia are such bores."

Rigoberta Menchu visits Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize laureate and campaigner for Indian rights Rigoberta Menchu began a five-day visit to Communist-ruled Cuba. She was greeted on her arrival in Havana Friday night by Vilma Espin, president of the Cuban Women's Federation and member of the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party. During her stay on the Caribbean island, Ms. Menchu was expected to meet President Fidel Castro and Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. She was also due to be presented with the Order of Ana Betancourt, a civilian decoration named after a national heroine. Ms. Menchu, 34, won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize for her activism in support of the rights of Latin America's indigenous Indian population, especially in Guatemala.

Queen Elizabeth's husband in yacht accident

COWES, England (AP) — The husband of Queen Elizabeth II crashed his yacht into another vessel in a race on the opening day of the annual Cowes Yachting Regatta Saturday, organisers said. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was at the helm of Yeoman XXVIII when it hit Magazine II on the finishing line, said Cowes Week press office. Sue Hardwick, the duke's wife, was on the port tack and was clearly in the wrong," she said. Prince Edward, the royal couple's youngest child, was with his father on board the 38-foot Yeoman, which suffered superficial damage. Ms. Hardwick said. Magazine II suffered a broken guard rail, she said. Afterwards the duke hailed the other boat and said, "are you all right? I am very sorry about that." "Yes, we are fine," replied the crew of the 36-foot Magazine II. Yeoman came eight in the race at Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, off the southern coast of England. At Cowes last year, Prince Edward rode a yacht onto rocks, ripping a spritaker.

French ministers inaugurate new AIDS centre

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Two French cabinet ministers donated blood to demonstrate confidence in anti-AIDS facilities in this West African nation. Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin and Deputy Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy rolled up their sleeves, let nurses insert needles into their arms and gave 400 millilitres (1 pint) each. The demonstration underscored French support for Ivory Coast's National Blood Transfusion Centre, the main blood bank for West Africa's country most stricken by AIDS, they said. "We're showing that there's nothing to worry about in giving blood," Mr. Roussin said. "It's a gesture of solidarity."

The former French colony has an estimated 1.5 million HIV-positive citizens of a total population of 12 million.